Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 61

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY MARCH 29, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Torres: Nothing to hide in forthcoming spending plan. PAGE 3

New Saipan Municipal Council building on track. PAGE 5

75¢

Man dies after shooting self

The Café Mangosix on As Terlaje Hill remains closed after a man shot himself at the café last Saturday.
JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man died from a "self-inflicted gunshot wound" at the Café Mangosix on As Terlaje Hill last Saturday, making this the first gunshot-related death this year in the CNMI.

Department of Public Safety public information officer Dre Pangelinan confirmed that the man was pronounced dead on arrival at the Commonwealth

See MAN on Page 4

COVID-19 in the CNMI: A year later

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A year ago yesterday, March 28, the CNMI saw its first two cases of COVID-19. Just two days later, one of those

See COVID-19 on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, March 28, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,794	2	7,796
Recovered	7,633	2	7,635
Active	25	2	27
Deaths	134	0	134
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			139,034

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	159	0	159
Traced via Travel Screening	123	0	123
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			12

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 13,619	Dose 1: 820	Dose 1: 939
Dose 2: 10,220	Dose 2: 370	Dose 2: 511

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Kilili: 8,500 expected to be eligible for LWA

» Torres meets with Labor, Finance to push $7.7M LWA program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An estimated 8,500 individuals will now be eligible for additional cash assistance under the Lost Wages Assistance Program, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan

This developed as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres disclosed

See LWA on Page 4

LAB WORK
Northern Marianas College nursing instructor Min Jung "Mindy" Song explains a medical procedure to her students during a skills laboratory work. The college is working to meet increasing health care workforce needs in the CNMI, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
NMC

KCHC to get $879,125 for COVID-19 response

» DHHS to Award Funding Starting in April

The Kagman Community Health Center will receive $879,125 in American Rescue Plan funding to support COVID-19 vaccination and services for vulnerable populations, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced Friday. The funding will be awarded beginning in April by the Health Resources

See KCHC on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Lisa Ficke starts a new yoga practice known as stand-up paddle board yoga.
PAGE 11

ASIA
Myanmar soldiers and police kill as many as 114 people while suppressing protests.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
CBS says Sharon Osbourne will no longer appear on its daytime show "The Talk."
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Primary Grades Forensic Conference winners of Grace Christian Academy have their picture taken at their Navy Hill campus.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All 13 GCA competitors qualify for PGCF regionals

All 13 Grace Christian Academy competitors bagged one or both awards in their two events in last February's virtual monthly qualifying competition of the Primary Grades Forensic Conference for kindergarten to 5th grade.

All four competitors in kindergarten to 2nd grade won eight awards in all their two events and the 3rd to 5th graders won 15 awards, for a total of 23 awards in different events for the two divisions.

Congratulations to all GCA competitors who joined in any of the four monthly qualifying the competitions since October 2020. All of them won at least one or more awards, making them eligible or qualified to join the regional completion in April. Those who will join the regional competition are now preparing for the final competition.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, almost all of the events are pre-recorded video entries. The only live event for PGFC is Impromptu Speaking via Google Meet, during which only the competitors and judges can enter the live meeting.

PGFC competition encourages public and private school students from kindergarten 5 to fifth grade to participate in and become proficient in performing arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretation.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners who participated in this competition:

K-2 DIVISION

Declamation
Jacqueline Iris Quitugua, 1st Place

Chamorro Event
Jacqueline Iris Quitugua, 1st Place

Dramatic Interpretation A
Fiona Yu, 1st Place

Reader's Forum A
Allen Gil, 2nd Place

Reader's Forum Masters A
Mirielle Isla Badal, 1st Place
Fiona Yu, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Mirielle Isla Badal, 2nd Place
Allen Gil, 4th Place

3-5 DIVISION

Declamation
Hans Gabriel Ordas, 1st Place
Chloe Hayul Shin, 3rd Place
Catalina Marie Frink, 4th Place

Humorous Interpretation
Chloe Hayul Shin, 1st Place

Duo Interpretation A
Llyanna Jairah Libut, 1st Place
Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 1st Place

Duo Interpretation B
Catalina Marie Frink, 2nd Place
Baila Marie Loomis, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Hans Gabriel Ordas, 1st Place
Chloe Hayul Shin, 3rd Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Anne Gabriel Emmalee Arriola, 2nd Place

Reader's Forum Masters A
Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 2nd Place
Nerissa Corinne Xiao Liu, 3rd Place

Reader's Forum C
Akira Ito, 4th Place
Llyanna Jairah Libut, 5th Place

PGFC coach/coordinator: Esther Manzano ***(PR)***

Torres: Creation of CEDA needed to entice economic development

Saying the creation of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority is needed to entice economic development, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday he is thankful to the House of Representatives for passing the bill that will create CEDA.

Speaking at his regular radio news briefing, Torres thanked the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers actually advised the creation of CEDA to benefit the entire CNMI. "It's definitely not for one entity. It's not for two entities or any specific company. It's for the entire Marianas. And so…the next step is to ask the Senate to also push

See CEDA on Next Page

ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
CELEBRATE
Easter Weekend
AT AQUA RESORT CLUB
Join us at Aqua Resort Club for a relaxing Easter weekend staycation with Easter Sunday Brunch at Costa Terrace Restaurant! Our delicious Buffet will be featuring Seafood on Ice, CAB Prime Rib, Roast Pig, Bottomless Beer, Sparkling Wine & more!
Deluxe GARDENVIEW ROOM
1 Night Stay in Garden View Rm
Easter Brunch for Two (2) Adults
Early Check-In 10:00 am
Late Check-Out 5:00 pm
$180.00 per room, per night
OCEANFRONT Suite
1 Night Stay in Oceanfront Suite
Easter Brunch for Two (2) Adults
Early Check-In 10:00 am
Late Check-Out 5:00 pm
50% off all beverages
$290.00 per room, per night
EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH
Sunday, April 4, 2021
Costa Terrace Restaurant
Seating Available at 10:30am & 11:15am
*$42.00 /Adult | *$21.00 /Child (ages 6-11)
*Special Local Resident Rates - Local ID Required
Costa
Terrace Restaurant
FACE MASKS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY.
Reservations Required. This event has very limited seating.
Safe Social Distancing guidelines will be strictly enforced.
PLEASE CALL (670) 322-1234

Torres: Nothing to hide in forthcoming spending plan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Governor says he has expenditure authority, no need for bill that mandates appropriation

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres assured Friday that the Legislature need not be concerned about transparency as he has nothing to hide in the government's expenditure plan for the estimated $515 million that's allocated to the CNMI under the American Rescue Plan.

"The expenditure plan… will be forthcoming, and I hope we can get that in the next couple of weeks or so," said Torres during a radio news briefing last week.

He said the expenditure plan is a federal requirement in order for the CNMI to get the money allocated to it under the American Rescue Plan. He assured his administration will soon submit that plan to the federal government.

As for the House of Representatives' recent passage of House Bill 22-33 that will give the Legislature appropriation powers over the $515 million, the governor said there is no need for that bill.

Torres said he thanks the Legislature for having the foresight to participate in the expenditure of the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund but a review of the American Rescue Plan Act—which the U.S. House and Senate passed and President Joe Biden signed into law—shows that its expenditure authority lies within the CNMI Treasury and the head of state.

"Not in specific languages, but we do have the authority," said the governor, noting that Attorney General Edward Manibusan already came out with an opinion that legislative appropriation is unconstitutional or not needed.

Torres does not believe House Bill 22-33 should pass the Legislature.

House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is the author of the bill. The House majority bloc voted for the passage of the bill. House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) voted twice to break the 10-10 tie and pass the bill.

Torres said he is obligated under the American Rescue Plan to send an expenditure plan to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Treasury for their review. He said his administration intends to follow every step of the requirements and recommendations from federal partners as they had in the past on similar funding.

"And this, again, will be no different. We do intend to look at our deficit, what are we mandated, where can we use spend the money, and then we'll go from there," the governor said.

His first priority, he said, is to make sure to bring back not only those furloughed government employees today, Monday, but also to restore every government employee to 80 hours. Torres said this includes employees at the Executive Branch, as well as the Judiciary and the Legislature. Those who are under 64 hours will be restored back to 80 hours, he said.

As for autonomous agencies, he said they obviously have their own way of handling things. "But we're here to work and to give that opportunity to everybody," he said.

Torres said they will work with the Northern Marianas College, Marianas Visitors Authority, and even with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to make sure that they address any shortfall or back pay for money that they've been using for COVID-19 response and other emergencies and disasters.

CEDA

From Page 2

that bill and let's create the new CEDA," he said.

The House unanimously passed House Bill 22-21 last Thursday. It was authored by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

Torres said he issued an executive order last year to split the governing boards of the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., also at the advice of the GCEA. Torres said creation of CEDA

See CEDA on Next Page

For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

The Division of Coastal Resources Management is looking for 15 CNMI-based college students or college-bound high school graduates with an interest in learning more about coral reef and coastal zone management. Our summer interns work 20 hours a week for 10 weeks from June to August and are paid $10.00 per hour.

To be considered, please submit the following documents by email to outreach@dcrm.gov.mp

CNMI EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION
Which can be found at www.cnmiopm.net
COVER LETTER
RESUME/CV
TRANSCRIPTS
Official or Unofficial
TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
Instructors and/or Employers Only
POLICE CLEARANCE
Within the Last 3 Months
COPY OF VALID PHOTO ID
Driver's License, Passport, etc.

APPLY BY FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021

This summer's internship opportunities include:
MARINE MONITORING ◦ EDUCATION & OUTREACH
SHORELINE MONITORING ◦ SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT ◦ REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ◦ WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

For more information, contact DCRM at 664-8300 or visit our website at WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP

Have Medicaid Dental Insurance?
- We would love to see you! No long waits, and Walk-ins always welcome. **Kind & Gentle Team!**
- We treat our patients like family. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea today. Best AirCon and free Wi-Fi!
- **Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), StayWell, TakeCare, CIGNA, Calvos and LHI insurances also accepted!**

Award-Winning Dentists
Dr. Nelson Krum & Dr. Richard Arbuckle
Paradise Dental Spa
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
234-4040
paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com instagram.com/paradisedentalspa facebook.com/paradisedentalspa

Kensington Hotel Saipan observes Earth Hour

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kensington Hotel Saipan observed Earth Hour this year by turning off the illuminated Kensington's logo and non-essential lights at 8:30pm last Saturday, which marked Earth Hour 2021.

According to E-Land' Group Corporate Social Responsibility manager Lindsay Ahn, the San Roque hotel turned off the main signage at the exterior and other non-essential lights throughout the property. She said lights at the lobby, hallways, parking lots, fountains, and swimming pool area were dimmed for 60 minutes or longer.

Kensington also encouraged its guests to participate in Earth Hour in their rooms by turning off lights that weren't essential.

According to E-Land chief executive officer Brian Shin, Kensington joined this initiative this year to support all efforts to protect our planet. "We joined even though the pandemic slowed down economic activities worldwide to significant extent in 2020. [However], it did not halt the climate change. Recognizing the magnitude of the environmental issues, we will continue to explore what we can do as a business to help," said Shin.

E-Land currently operates Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio, and Coral Ocean Point Golf in Obyan. PIC and COP did not participate in the event because PIC is closed and COP only operates the golf course and does not have night operations.

Ahn said they will consider encouraging all properties to join the occasion in the coming years as soon as operations are normal.

Earth Hour, organized by the World Wildlife Fund, is a worldwide campaign that encourages people to turn off the lights for one hour on the last Saturday of March every year as a symbolic action to raise awareness on climate change.

It was initiated by WWF back in 2007 and, according to Ahn, it has become one of the largest grassroot movement in which millions of concerned individuals or corporate citizens take part globally.

E-Land Group chief executive officer Brian Shin, standing second from right, poses with guest and Kensington Hotel Saipan staff as they participate in Earth Hour by turning off the illuminated Kensington logo and non-essential lights at 8:30pm last Saturday, which marked Earth Hour 2021.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COVID-19

From Page 1

two died.

This year, the CNMI is leading the nation in COVID-19 vaccination rates, with 20% of the population fully vaccinated and with more COVID-19 vaccines on the way, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP).

As of March 28, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reported 26,433 people have already been vaccinated. This includes 15,332 people who have already gotten their first shot and 11,101 who got their second shot and thus completed the vaccine series.

Sablan said in a Facebook post that 31,155 people in the CNMI could be fully vaccinated by the end of April.

Within this week, the CNMI will receive 11,700 doses of the Pfizer/BioBTech COVID-19 vaccine, 5,000 doses of the Moderna Inc. vaccine, and 5,000 doses of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, he added.

Case No. 147 identified through medical referral

Speaking at the governor's media briefing last March 26, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said that COVID-19 positive case No. 147, which was the CNMI's first local case of the coronavirus in 204 days, was identified on March 12 through pre-travel testing. Muña said the individual was asymptomatic and was fully vaccinated two months before contracting COVID-19.

Muña said CHCC, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and contact tracers identified 182 unique persons, which led to the identification of 10 people who were positive for COVID-19. Of the remaining 172, 165 were identified to have "sufficient level" of contact, but fortunately, there were no additional cases that were identified.

Muña said the other 10 people who did test positive were symptomatic with the dates ranging from 12 days to one day, with an average of five days before getting laboratory confirmation.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LWA

From Page 1

last Friday that he met with Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, governor's representative Patrick Guerrero, and the Department of Finance as they will be moving to push the LWA program out as soon and as much as they can.

"That will be $300 more per week for those that are eligible. And that's about $7.7 million being pushed out," said the governor during his Friday radio news briefing.

Torres also lauded the CNMI being approved a 100% waiver for the LWA program's matching fund requirement.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan said President Joe Biden approved the CNMI's request for a waiver of the local share of the LWA program for the unemployed in the Marianas.

Sablan said former president Donald Trump created the program administratively last year, after the Republican-controlled Senate refused to extend federal unemployment benefits nationwide.

He said the Commonwealth was unable to use the money, however, because it required a 25% local match. The delegate said Torres asked for a waiver and Trump would not provide it.

"So, $7,721,288 in federal funds sat idle," said Sablan, adding that it was only when Biden approved Torres' request that the funds became available.

Under the LWA program, the federal government will provide $300 per person per month as federal contribution to eligible claimants from the week of unemployment ending Aug. 1, 2020.

The LWA Program grants come from Federal Emergency Management Agency and its intended beneficiaries are workers who have had reduced hours due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

The same workers who received the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program will also benefit from the LWA, according to Labor's earlier announcement.

The CNMI was approved for $7.7 million for LWA last Sept. 16, 2020.

MAN

From Page 1

Health Center.

The victim's identity is still being withheld as the police investigation is still going on. It was also not immediately learned if the victim's family has already been notified. According to Pangelinan, DPS is hoping to release more information today as they are still investigating the incident.

According to a DPS statement, the shooting was reported at 2:08pm at Café Mangosix where staff from the café said a male individual was unresponsive as a result of a "self-inflicted" gunshot wound—essentially meaning he shot himself. DPS said police and medics immediately rushed to the scene. Social media was flooded with pictures of the alleged victim, who was tagged on Facebook posts as a law enforcement officer. This could not be independently verified.

DPS said the café staff said the male individual had gone to the café to speak with a friend. After a few minutes, the male walked out of the restroom and that's when staff heard a single gunshot.

Saipan Tribune attempted to get comments from some Café Mangosix staff but the cafe was closed yesterday at 5:30pm.

The most recent gunshot incident that the CNMI saw was the 38-hour long hostage tragedy in San Antonio that ended in a hail of bullets last March 12, 2020, that killed a hostage-taker and the hostage after law enforcement stormed the home where he was barricaded.

KCHC

From Page 1

and Services Administration.

Other U.S. territories are also allocated funding for the same purpose: Guam will get $2,365,750; American Samoa, $3,064,625; U.S. Virgin Islands, $4,244,250 to support two health centers; Puerto Rico, $78,544,750 to support 22 health centers; and the three freely associated states of Palau ($5,636,3750), the Marshall Islands ($3,445,250), and the Federated States of Micronesia ($9,023,875 to support four health centers).

Health centers will be able to use the funds to support and expand COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and treatment for vulnerable populations; deliver needed preventive and primary health care services to those at higher risk for COVID-19; and expand health centers' operational capacity during the pandemic and beyond, including modifying and improving physical infrastructure and adding mobile units. This investment will help increase access to vaccinations among hard-hit populations, as well as confidence in the vaccine by empowering local, trusted health professionals in their efforts to expand vaccinations.

"Every American should have the security of knowing they have access to quality, affordable health care, especially as we face a pandemic that has exposed the disparities facing rural, minority, and lower-income communities," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. "The Biden Administration is committed to getting help to those who need it most, and the communities hit hardest by COVID-19 will benefit from these critical investments."

HRSA-funded health centers are community-based and patient-directed organizations that deliver affordable, accessible, quality, and cost-effective primary health care to medically underserved communities and vulnerable populations, including high-need urban, rural, and frontier communities across the country. Health centers serve 1 in 5 people living in rural communities, and 1 in 11 people nationwide. More than 91% of health center patients are individuals or families living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and nearly 63% are racial or ethnic minorities.

For detailed information on how this funding is being distributed to health centers, including an interactive map of which health centers will receive funding, visit: https://bphc.hrsa.gov/program-opportunities/american-rescue-plan/awards.

For information on ensuring equity in COVID-19 vaccine distribution, visit: https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/health-center-program. ***(PR)***

CEDA

From Page 3

is also at the GCEA's advice.

"Hopefully we can really entice economic development [with CEDA's creation]" he said.

The governor said the GCEA has a lot more recommendations in the pipeline. "I hope the Legislature really embraces those changes and support because we put so much time, effort, and resources to meet weekly basis in the last eight to nine months. …We went to the House and we did a presentation and we went to the Senate and also did the presentation about these changes," he said.

Torres said it's not just the CEDA that they're trying to push. The governor said all the efforts of the GCEA can be seen with the transformation of tourist sites.

"We have a long goal. We have a goal to make the CNMI a world-class destination. It's not going to be a two-year program. it's not going to be a three-year, it's going to be at least 10 years to get to where we at," Torres said, adding that he has taken a lot of the GCEA's recommendations to heart. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

New Saipan Municipal Council building on track

The long-awaited Saipan Municipal Council building project is starting to shape up with a planned groundbreaking ceremony at its Chalan Kanoa site next to the U.S. Postal Service just as soon as the project is ready to get off the ground.

Right now, about 98% of the pre-construction work is already done, according to Ana Demapan Castro, chairperson of the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council. That includes doing the required environmental and historical review, securing the entire designation of public domain to the municipal council, collaborating with the CNMI Public Assistance Office and Federal Emergency Management Agency, and working with the Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to request for additional local funding as cost-share and match.

The entire project has been on the drawing board since August 2015 when Typhoon Soudelor extensively damaged the building and rendered it unusable based on post-inspection findings by local and FEMA inspectors.

Last March 24, the Office of Insular Affairs awarded the CNMI $9.08 million in Capital Improvement Project grant funding and part of that money will be used to fund the construction of the Municipal Council building.

The project continues to undergo technical changes to date, going back and forth between numerous reviews, permitting clearances, and justifications by countless entities and offices within the CNMI government and U.S. federal entities charged with securing funding and issuing approvals in order to expend monies for a host of disaster-damaged public facilities.

The new building will feature a 2,400 square-foot public facility that will permanently house the SNIMC as it plans to expand municipal programs and services. Among the potential programs being envisioned in villages are Neighborhood Watch, home gardening, beautification, environmental stewardship, home economics, capacity building training and development seminars (healthy living, nutrition, and wellness, budgeting, savings and investing, cooking, virtues and values, self-care and positive living, etc.), and cultural competency and proficiency in the indigenous languages, traditional medicine, heritage, arts and crafts.

Castro dedicates the future building to the people of Saipan and the Northern Islands and the hard work and collaboration shown by many stakeholders and individuals involved in the project since the start. ***(PR)***

An artist's rendition of the planned Saipan Municipal Council building. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ana Demapan Castro, left, and vice chair Antonia Manibusan Tudela hold up the artist's rendition of the planned Saipan Municipal Council building at the site where it will be built next to the U.S. Postal Service. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

Request for Qualification of Statements for Project Management Services for the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

RFQ21-GOV-051

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Hazard Mitigation Program, Office of the Governor (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Project Management Services for the 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Projects in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or the latest revision. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The selected Project Manager(s) (PM) will be retained as independent contractors under the Contracting Officer's general provision or his/her designee. The PM will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within the cost, time, and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. The project management services are for a one-year contract with the option to renew for an additional year at the Commonwealth's discretion.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable Scope of Work and submittal requirements at the HMGP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning **Monday, March 22, 2021**, during business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) or electronic mail (request to Tiana T. Reyes; treyes@omb.gov.mp).

A pre-proposal conference will conducted by Zoom Web Conference on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m ChST.** An invitation will be emailed to all interested parties. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email: ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp or to fax no. (670) 664-2408 no later than **Friday, April 9, 2021, 4:00 p.m. ChSt.**

Selection of firms or individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305.
The evaluation will be on statements of professional qualification and the following criteria:

A. Overall qualifications in project (design/construction) management - (30%)
B. Experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope, - (30%)
C. Project approach and performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed project (design/construction) management - (30%)
D. Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (10%)
E. Fee (0%)

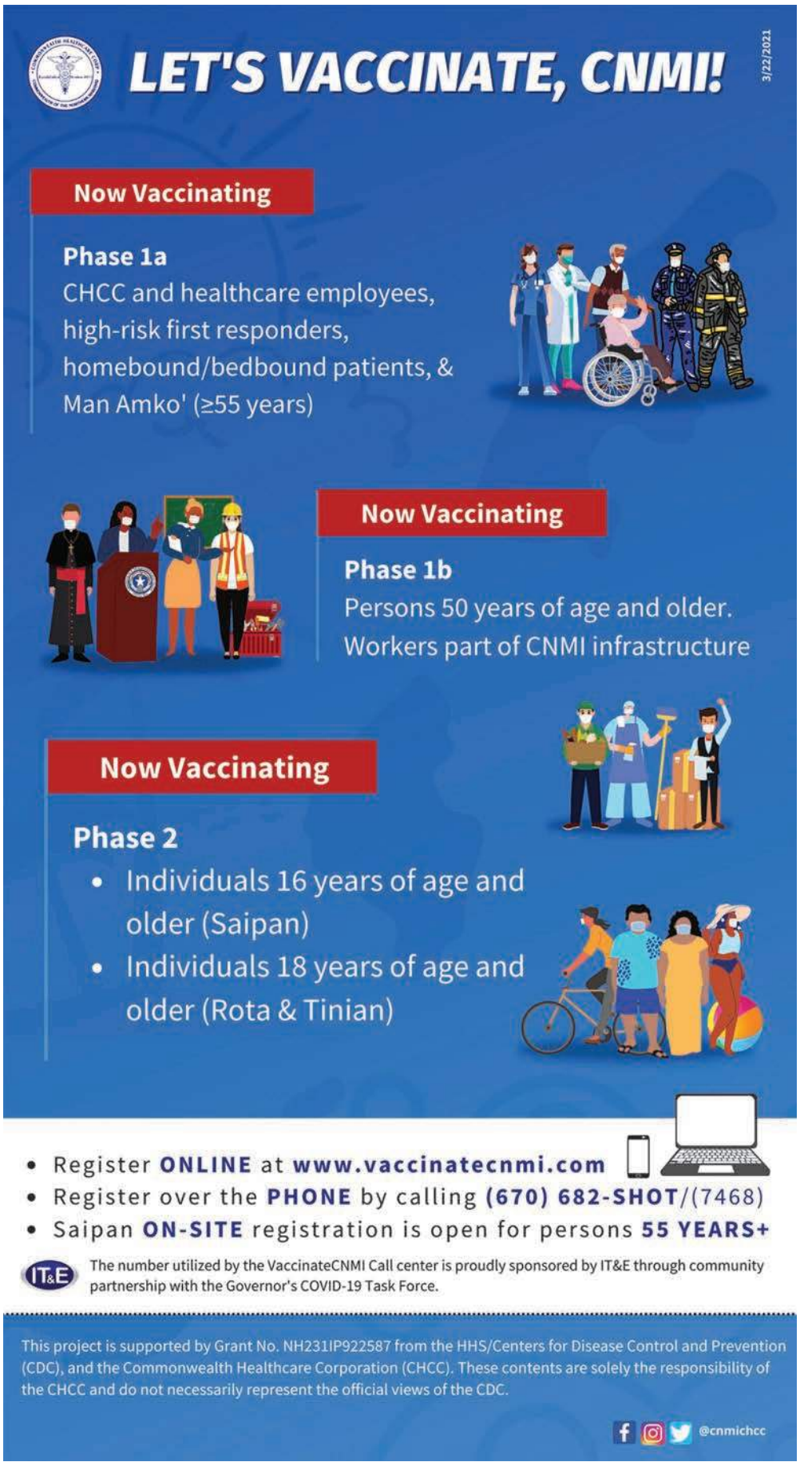
To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and a CNMI Board of Professional Licensing Certificate of Authorization to practice as an Engineer or Architect. Statements of qualification can be a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 and shall not exceed 30 pages.

All of the documents listed above are considered material elements of the proposal. Failure to submit any of the documents listed above in the required format will result in classification as a non-responsive proposer and removed from further consideration.

Qualification statements must be sealed and marked **RFQ21-GOV-051 PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 404 HMGP PROJECTS.** For proposers within the CNMI, one original, two (2) copies, and a USB flashdrive of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Asencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, Thursday, April 22, 2021**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, Thursday, April 22, 2021** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to f.aguon@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original, two (2) copies, and a USB flashdrive of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Thursday, April 22, 2021.** They must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **Monday, May 3, 2021**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may cause a proposal's rejection.

/s/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply


LET'S VACCINATE, CNMI!
3/22/2021
Now Vaccinating
Phase 1a
CHCC and healthcare employees, high-risk first responders, homebound/bedbound patients, & Man Amko' (≥55 years)
Now Vaccinating
Phase 1b
Persons 50 years of age and older.
Workers part of CNMI infrastructure
Now Vaccinating
Phase 2
• Individuals 16 years of age and older (Saipan)
• Individuals 18 years of age and older (Rota & Tinian)
• Register ONLINE at www.vaccinatecnmi.com
• Register over the PHONE by calling (670) 682-SHOT/(7468)
• Saipan ON-SITE registration is open for persons 55 YEARS+
IT&E
The number utilized by the VaccinateCNMI Call center is proudly sponsored by IT&E through community partnership with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.
This project is supported by Grant No. NH231IP922587 from the HHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). These contents are solely the responsibility of the CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.
@cnmichcc

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866
03/15/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 30, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Corornavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Public Law 116-136, enacted on March 27, 2020, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Proposed Expansion of the NMHC Building	Client Intake and Interview Booth in observance of COVID-19 Safety Protocols.	Garapan, Saipan	Approximately $100,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. or you may access the ERR at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the Public Notice/Announcement Tab titled "Environmental Reviews"

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by March 30, 2021, 4:30 p.m., will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Mr. Jesse Wu, Director of Public Housing via email at jesse.wu@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

San Nicolas law firm backs Tinian's Ohala Foundation

Former CNMI attorney general, Tinian mayor, and current private lawyer JP San Nicolas and his office have joined in supporting the efforts of the Tinian-based Ohala Foundation and its goal to help those most in need.

Starting last March 27 up to April 6, the San Nicolas Law Office on Saipan is receiving food donations for transfer to Tinian in support of the bi-weekly "Ohala Foodbox Distribution Program."

"I wanted to commend [Ohala Foundation chair Phillip Mendiola-Long], the Ohala [Foundation] board members and its hardworking volunteers and supporters for their continued efforts in feeding and taking care of our people. I frequently travel between Saipan and Tinian and I look forward to delivering whatever donations we can receive to the foundation," said San Nicolas.

Mendiola-Long said the support of local businesses like the San Nicolas Law Office is critical and appreciated. "The impact of hunger and food security affects all of our communities and we thank attorney San Nicolas for his support in getting food and supplies over to Tinian," said Mendiola-Long.

The the San Nicolas Law Office is located on Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai on the second floor of the Island Commercial Center, across First Hawaiian Bank.

Contact the Ohala Foundation by visiting ohalafoundation.org or by calling (670) 433-2664. ***(PR)***

Navy sets multiple trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will continue to conduct scheduled training in open ocean, Reserve Craft Beach, Warning Area 12, and Warning Area 517 until March 29 from midnight to 11:59pm to include the following coordinates: 13˚75"N/144˚33"E, 13˚75"N/144˚60"E, 13˚50"N/144˚60"E, 13˚50"N/144˚33"E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada March 29 to April 1, from 9am. to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Agat Bay, Outer Apra Harbor, and Orote Point from March 29 to April 1, from 9am. to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be used for this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Radio Barrigada and Dandan-Malojloj from March 29 to April 1, from 9am to 11:55pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean March 29 to April 1 from 9am to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13˚26"N/145˚08"E, 13˚42"N/144˚36"E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor on March 30, from 9am to 2pm. The public is advised to be aware of this training event. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Building Services Corporation, a CNMI corporation was dissolved on December 5, 2017. Building Services Corporation filed articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporation on January 18, 2018. This notice is being published in accordance with 4CMC 4607.

Any creditor and person with outstanding claims against the Company is requested to notify the corporate office as soon as possible.

The claim may be sent to:
Building Service Corporation
P.O. Box 502948,
Saipan, MP 96950

The President

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-SAMB/GAR-072
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 07, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS I SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLES (SUV) FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
GOVERNORS AUTHORIZED REP.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
2390 Beach Road, Oleai CDA Bldg., Unit 205, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 95960
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2021-CDA-03-RFP
Closing Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m.

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF VIDEO CONFERENCE SYSTEMS

Copies of the proposal package may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor, Unit 205, CDA Building, Beach Road Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Name: Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut
Address: P.O. Box 505616 Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 233-7678 (Work)

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut (Name of Father)
P.J.E.R. (Name of Child) Minor Child
Plaintiffs,
vs.
Jhumilyn S. Esposo (Name of Mother)
Defendant,

FCD PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0030

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Ronald Ryann T. Rapanut whose address is P.O. Box 505616 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2021

/s/_____
Clerk of Court

Dementia Awareness Conference Series enters third week

The Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the University of Guam's School of Health will be hosting week three of its Dementia Awareness Conference Series to provide education, training, and awareness on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

The sessions are free and open to the public in Guam and all of Micronesia. The virtual conference series is divided into three tracks: for health professionals, for the Micronesian communities, and for the general public.

See schedule below for the upcoming sessions for week three:

For health professionals:

■ "Positive Approach to Care: Progression of Dementia: Seeing GEMS®—Not Just Loss" by Melanie Bunn, RN, MS, GNP
■ Time: 10am–12pm (ChST)
■ Date: Tuesday, March 30
■ Registration Link: http://bit.ly/gwephp2021
**Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available as part of this track.*

For the Micronesian communities:

■ "Elder Justice Center" by Attorney David Highsmith, J.D., and Kathleen L.G. Moylan
■ "CARES® Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention™: What is Elder Abuse?" by Margaret Hattori-Uchima, Ph.D., RN, and Danilo Philbert C. Bilong, Ph.D.
■ Time: 6pm – 8pm (ChST)
■ Date: Wednesday, March 31
■ Registration Link: http://bit.ly/gwepmc2021

For the general public:

■ "Advanced Care Planning" by Delores Lee, M.D., and Annamma S. Varghese, DNP, CMSRN
■ Time: 6pm – 8pm (ChST)
■ Date: Thursday, April 1
■ Registration Link: http://bit.ly/gwepgp2021

For more information, contact the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program at uog.gwep@triton.uog.edu.

About the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

The primary goal of Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is to transform the health systems serving the region's elderly and individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias resulting in improved quality of life.

The program aims to fill gaps in elderly care in the region through:

■ workforce development;
■ family and caregiver training;
■ engaged community networks and partnerships; and
■ enhancement of the University of Guam nursing assistant training program. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Colin, who is turning 5 today! You have no idea how happy and proud you make us feel. May God bless you and shower you with love, protection, good health, and happiness in life. We love you, *anak*. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and *Kuya*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Join our Team!
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKER
JOB DESCRIPTION:
• Landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment.
• Workers typically perform a variety of tasks, which may include any combination of the following: sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and sprinkler installation.
QUALIFICATIONS:
• Must have at least 3-5 years work experience. Can work flexible days even on holidays and weekends, and travel to Tinian for temporary detail assignments.
APPLY TODAY! Email: hrtjsaipan@triplejsaipan.com
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J SAIPAN
For more information call: +1(670) 234-1795
Triple J offers competitive benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 61

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Boulder mass shooting: The latest tragic reason for increased gun control

What if Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa had never gotten his hands on the military-style assault weapon he likely used in a murderous shooting spree this week at a Boulder, Colorado, grocery store that killed 10 people, including a police officer who left seven children behind? The Ruger AR-556 pistol was one of two guns found near Alissa when police apprehended him.

Perhaps if the 21-year-old, who has been charged with 10 counts of first-degree murder, had not been able to buy the weapon six days earlier, we as a country wouldn't be mourning the second mass shooting inside of a week, an act of violence that has become part of the culture of America and proven again that lives are less important than gun rights.

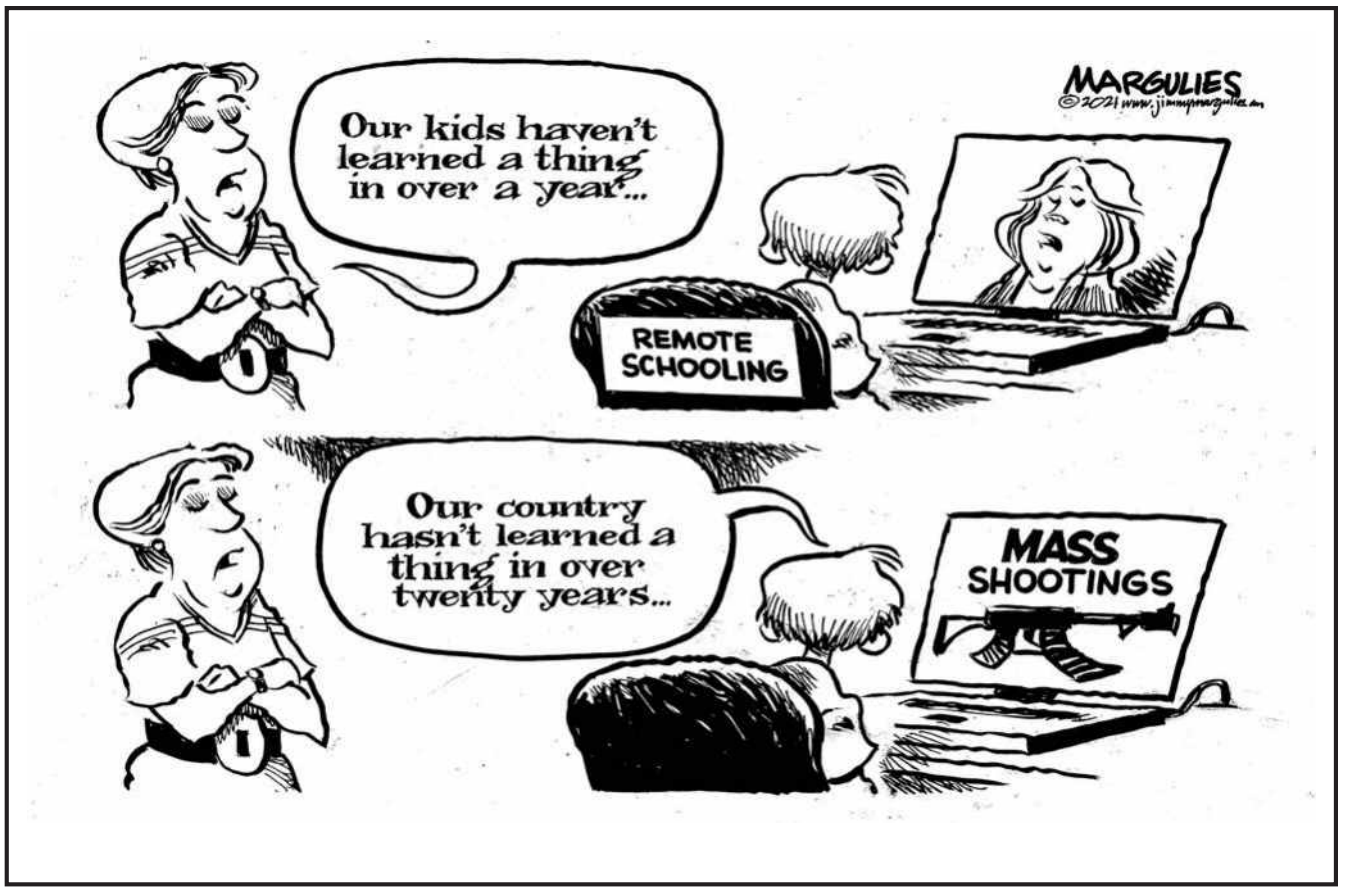
The city of Boulder tried to prevent this type of destruction from happening. In 2018, the city banned assault weapons like the military-style model carried by Alissa, only for the law to be challenged in court by the National Rifle Association. And now, the country finds itself again in mourning, and embroiled in a contentious debate about gun rights and whether restrictions would stop such crimes. This time we hope it doesn't end the way it always does, with talk fading away until the next mass shooting.

We can't say it enough: It shouldn't be simple to buy a gun in America; they are weapons designed to kill, and with their ownership comes a great level of responsibility. Their purchase should require hoops and hurdles to clear. And no one needs access to an assault-style weapon, unless they are on the front lines of a war zone. No one.

President Joe Biden demanded Tuesday that Congress once and for all ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. He also pressed the Senate to follow the lead of the House and immediately pass legislation that expands background checks on the sale of firearms, including one that extends the background check review period from three to 10 days and another that applies such checks to all gun buyers. It is what needs to be done to prevent further destructive, and often spontaneous, mass acts of violence and, as Biden said, to saves lives.

But once again, any change is already at risk of derailment as Republicans dig in their heels on their staunch and narrow position of protecting Americans' right to bear arms. Already, we have heard the typical deflective arguments: Weapons don't commit crimes, people do, and stricter gun control won't stop shootings. Gun stores are again bracing for a run on sales as Americans worrying their gun purchasing access will be legislated away. And where has this strategy of doubling down against commonsense gun control measures gotten us? Ask all the people who don't feel safe going to the supermarket anymore. Ask the families of

See BOULDER on Next Page


MARGULIES
©2021 www.jimmymargulies.com
Our kids haven't learned a thing in over a year...
REMOTE SCHOOLING
Our country hasn't learned a thing in over twenty years...
MASS SHOOTINGS

How the 'Build Back Better' plan can benefit US territories

Editor's note: The following is the author's written testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources' oversight hearing on "How the Biden Administration's Build Back Better plan can benefit the U.S. territories." It is being published as a series due to its length. The first part was published on March 26, 2021.

By RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Second of a series

The Tinian International Airport hosts a runway of 8,600 feet with one parallel and two connecting taxiways. The aircraft capacity of the airfield is of the B777-747 class aircrafts. The Tinian airport terminal facility houses three ticket counter positions and CNMI Customs and Quarantine counters.

The Tinian Seaport is comprised of a 1,000-foot-long dock, three quays and two piers. The main quay has a usable length of 2,200 feet with depths between 25 and 29 feet. Piers 1 and 2 to the southwest of the main quay each have a usable length of 500 feet and a depth of 25 feet. One of the shorter quays reside between the main quay and pier 1 and the other between piers 1 and 2. Both piers were constructed in 1945 and have fallen into disrepair and are largely unusable.

The Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport has an airfield with a runway that spans 7,000 feet in length with two connecting taxiways and an aircraft capacity of a B373-400 type air craft or smaller. The terminal facility houses three ticket counter positions, two U.S. Customs and Border Protection stations, and CNMI Customs and Quarantine counters. The holding room has the capacity to hold 120 passengers.

On Rota, the West Harbor is the primary seaport facility located on the southwest side of Songsong village. There are two docking areas that comprise West Dock, one is approximately 100 feet long and the other is 150 feet long. Berth 1 was constructed during the Japanese occupation of the islands prior to World War II to facilitate export from the Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki sugar mill. The harbor and berth were severely impacted by Typhoon Pamela in 1976 and, following recommendations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the second berth was completed in 1983. This dock can support two vessels simultaneously.

The CNMI's Northern Islands are currently devoid of even basic air and seaport, water, and electrical power infrastructure. Increased utilization of the islands of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan, for residential and agricultural use, and future tourism, will require an investment in basic infrastructure. Current small residential populations on these islands are especially challenged by the lack of adequate water catchment and distribution systems, electrical power, and air and sea ports. The only aircraft runway is a pre-WWII unpaved strip, that has been unusable for a number of years due to weather damage. Similarly, the existing and unusable seaport on Pagan was originally constructed before 1945 during the Japanese administration of the islands. The Northern Islands are ideally suited for alternative energy solutions.

Infrastructure needs and the way forward in the CNMI

Many of the CNMI's roads are in substandard condition and in need paving or repaving. This is an opportunity to see the kind of investment we need to see our thoroughfares redesigned to better accommodate traditional vehicle transportation, but at the same time integrate a "complete street" design, that incorporates bike lanes, sidewalks, and appropriate lighting and landscaping. Such a redesign and re-envisioning of our roadways, that takes into consideration a variety of forms of transportation, will better serve our community and facilitate numerous sustainability objectives including helping to reduce our carbon footprint. It will further provide us with the opportunity to address longstanding issues with drainage and runoff that causes significant damage to our marine environment.

In 2020, U.S. Public Law 116-20 appropriated $56 million to the EPA to plan for improvements to solid waste management on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. These funds are to be awarded in phases over the course of five years and targeted at the supplementing the necessary expenses to recover from the impacts of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The CNMI Office of Planning and Development received $565,980 for the formation of the interisland solid waste task force. The task force includes the Department of Public Works, representatives from the Offices of the Mayors of Tinian and Rota, and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. The CNMI is grateful for this assistance and looks forward to a sustainable waste management solution that meets the highest environmental standards and supports our goal of achieving sustainable production and consumption patterns as well as growth and resource use that meets the needs of current and future generations.

To be continued tomorrow

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Marianas as a diplomatic destination

'RICK'S COLUMN'
By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

US-China competition

The U.S. China competition is well underway and the next several years will be crucial as both nations seek to secure their place as the world's leader in economics, technology, information, artificial intelligence, and finance. China is positioning itself to be the strongest regional military power in Asia, as it expands its economic and trade influence throughout and beyond its near seas sphere of influence. The United States desires to maintain its worldwide military and economic position of advantage and is now heavily focused on the Pacific-Asia region at levels not previously seen.

Much of this competition has forced major change in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, mostly tied to military matters and telecommunications. The cost of increased militarization throughout the island chain has been catastrophic for our already rare ancient Chamorro environmental and human resource corridors. Other costs of militarization include upward pricing pressures on housing, food, utilities, and the overall cost of living. But some may not realize that East Asia, the western Pacific, and Micronesia are core American imperial interests, driving the military buildup in the region.

Economic complexities

China seeks to become the world's largest economy using its exporting power, technological diplomacy, and domestic consumption to get there. China has almost four times the number of people as does the United States and maintains assertive pathways toward forging regional economic relationships with many of its neighbors. This approach cannot be underestimated or overlooked because crafting deeper inter-dependencies with regional countries affords China greater opportunities to build stronger alliances than would otherwise be the case.

Military complexities

China is ahead of schedule with its overall military buildup. The United States continues to far outpace any other nation with its full suite of military and support capabilities, but this may not last. In the Asia-Pacific region, America's core allies work on regional cooperation through multilateral military exercises. Guam and the CNMI, for better and for worse, will continue to be used extensively for multilateral and American inter-agency tactical and strategic training, weapons and fuel storage sites, and logistical support, that will produce additional environmental damage to our region.

Potential miscalculations will continue to persist

The strategic competition between the U.S. and China may introduce increased instances for miscalculation that could lead to hot war. Potential miscalculations can arise in almost any kind of situation ranging from freedom of navigation operational mishaps, to piracy, to spying, to at-sea accidents, all within the First Island Chain.

An attack on Taiwan by China represents one scenario that would create the conditions for hot war escalation. The U.S. would surely respond to a PRC attack on Taiwan. Taiwan, however, has a variety of topographical and population size challenges that would make it very difficult for the Chinese to secure a quick hot war military victory.

The United States may not be able to successfully defend Taiwan because of these same complex factors and geopolitical miscalculations. If a hot war does break out, Guam and the Northern Marianas will be placed at highest risk because of the concentration of military assets on-island and the ability of the United States to project military resources from our island chain. The Chinese have the capability to also initiate a sea-based or ground-based launch of intermediate range ballistic missiles targeting Guam.

Diplomatic destination—the Marianas

What's missing in this recipe are discussions about diplomacy and the power of negotiations to help avert hot war in the region, and to entertain ideas that put bilateral and multilateral communications guardrails in place. The Marianas media places emphasis on many things including local and national politics, sports, COVID 19, tourism (or the lack thereof), entertainment, death announcements and crime, but doesn't talk about how Guam and the Northern Marianas can become an international diplomatic destination.

I'm not talking about having JRM host events on base, or discussions sponsored by the admiral. I'm talking more about building on the foundations of past visits made to Guam's Chamorro and villager communities by folks like the late senator Ted Kennedy, former U.S. president Richard Nixon, and to a lesser extent former presidents' Ronald Reagan and even Harry Truman, but with a public and diplomatic focus and objective. I'm talking about the governors of Guam and the CNMI, the legislatures and communities, putting Guam and the CNMI on the international diplomatic mission destination map using current facility infrastructure resources.

The power of example

If Guam can be a place for international running and swimming events, martial arts, baseball, softball, soccer, rugby, and military training exercises, it can also be a destination to host major international and multilateral diplomatic events. The same or similar goes with Luta and Saipan.

By hosting international diplomatic events, Guam and the CNMI may be able to create new inroads to discuss and share information on COVID 19, health care system delivery, human rights injustices, climate change, denuclearization and non-proliferation, international drug trafficking and crime, food security, cultural security, energy security, film, music, artificial intelligence, technology, and commerce, in tandem with American national government representatives.

Nation states in attendance will also be afforded opportunities to showcase their main diplomatic and domestic challenges and successes in an American colonial setting, while also being given the platform to consider partnerships with the Marianas and the Chamorro people that have not been previously identified. Establishing the Marianas as a regional diplomatic destination will give the American president, the American diplomatic corps, our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization, and foreign leaders reason to come together.

Statement from the Social Security commissioner about Economic Impact Payments

By ANDREW SAUL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Andrew Saul is the commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

I want to provide an important update about the Social Security Administration's processing of Economic Impact Payments under the American Rescue Plan Act.

At each turn over the last 12 months, immediate delivery of EIPs has been, and remains, a top priority for this agency. SSA's public service mission is squarely focused on many of those who are most economically-vulnerable in our society and we owe it to our beneficiaries to ensure they receive their EIPs right away. In fact, it was the substantial efforts of SSA that successfully overcame the fact that the IRS did not have a mechanism to automatically identify Supplemental Security Income recipients, some of the most financially insecure people in America. It was SSA that pushed the prior administration and the U.S. Congress to allow us to send to IRS a file of those individuals who do not receive forms SSA-1099, so that IRS could automatically issue EIPs to them.

Since the time that discussions began regarding issuance of EIPs in the ARP Act, weeks before passage, we have worked tirelessly with our counterparts at IRS to provide to them the information they need to issue payments to our beneficiaries. Despite the fact that Congress did not directly provide SSA funding to support our work on EIPs, we have provided countless hours of assistance to IRS consistent with the laws that establish how we may use the Trust Funds that every American counts on us to protect.

SSA discussed with Treasury and IRS, both before passage and after enactment of the ARP Act, that the Social Security Act does not allow the agency to use our administrative appropriation to conduct work on any non-mission provision or program. Accordingly, we were not authorized to substantively engage Treasury or IRS prior to the ARP's passage. Instead, upon passage, we were required to pursue a reimbursable agreement with IRS because we received no direct appropriation through the ARP Act. From the outset of discussions, we kept congressional staff apprised of the hurdles this approach would create for SSA, and we have continued to update them on our progress with IRS as we completed the required interagency agreements.

Once we were free to move forward, we aggressively worked with Treasury and IRS to issue payments. As a result of our efforts, we successfully signed the reimbursable agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding less than one week after passage, on March 17. That process often takes weeks or months to complete, but we got the job done in a matter of days. A few days later, on Monday, March 22, SSA sent initial test files to IRS. IRS confirmed testing success on Wednesday, March 24. Production files were delivered to IRS before 9 AM on Thursday, March 25—more than a week sooner than we were able to provide a similar file to IRS during the first round of EIPs.

While we were working through the agreements with IRS that would fund our efforts to support issuance of EIPs, we were also protecting the integrity of the EIP program by updating the files that IRS will use to issue payments to our beneficiaries. Those updates to our files ensure that payments go to correct bank accounts and addresses, and, that those who are deceased are removed from the files. In short, Social Security employees have literally worked day and night with IRS staff to ensure that the electronic files of Social Security and SSI recipients are complete, accurate, and ready to be used to issue payments. There is no one more committed to serving the public than the employees of this agency, and there should be no doubt whatsoever that they are striving each day to serve the vulnerable populations to whom they have committed their careers. I find any insinuation to the contrary to be unacceptable.

I assure you that we will continue to do all we can to support implementation of the ARP Act.

BOULDER

From Page 8

the victims in Colorado—and in Atlanta, where another shooter killed eight people six days earlier.

It is time Congress stop letting the NRA and supposed gun rights activists hold them hostage and twist a real need for gun safety into a false argument about abolishing the Second Amendment. Lawmakers must start listening to the people; research has consistently shown that most Americans want tighter restrictions. It is time that the country lose the distinction of having one of the highest rates of deaths from gun violence in the world.

If Congress isn't prepared to take a strong stance, the White House has signaled it is. The Biden administration is exploring taking executive action, including classifying as firearms ghost guns, kits that allow a gun to be assembled from pieces, according to The New York Times. Another measure would fund community violence intervention programs, and another strengthen background checks. The administration may need to take such bold action, making sure it passes legal muster, to bypass another potential stalemate and get quick action on the gun restrictions the country so desperately needs.

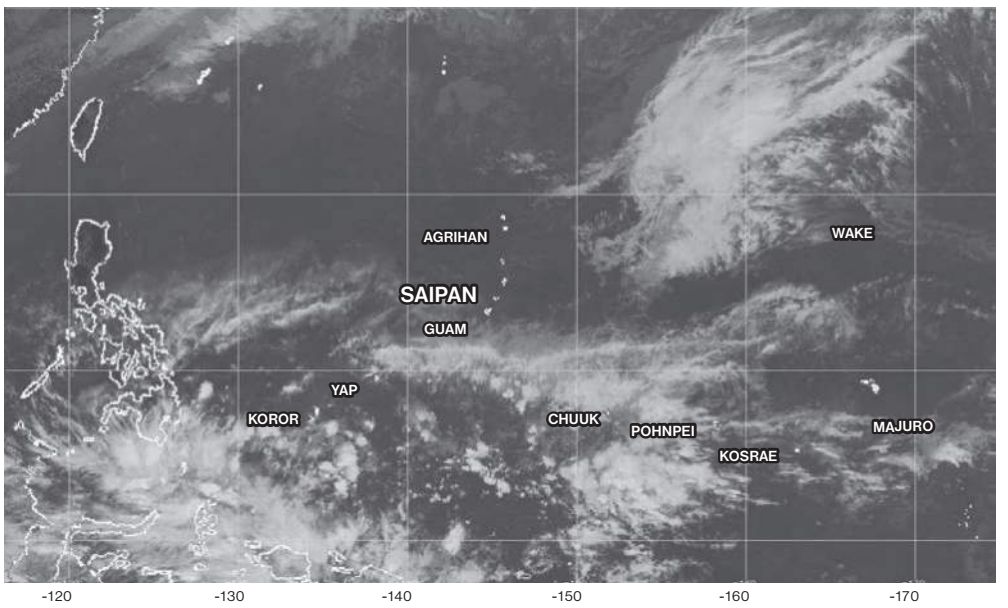
©2021 *The Baltimore Sun*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:23 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Outflow from a band of showers near 10N is causing overcast skies for Guam and Rota. Farther north patchy clouds are present near Tinian and Saipan. Buoys show a eastern swell between 5 to 6 feet with a 10 second period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 | 79 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 | 77 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	90 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85 | 79 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	82 | 78 °F
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85 | 79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84 | 80 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:32 AM	7:02 PM
Tuesday	-	7:17 AM	8:02 PM
Wednesday	-	8:03 AM	9:04 PM
Thursday	-	8:53 AM	10:07 PM
Friday	-	9:45 AM	11:11 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	74 | 64 °F
Beijing	Clear	60 | 36 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72 | 61 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85 | 71 °F
London	Clear	55 | 40 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	71 | 52 °F
Manila	Clear	91 | 78 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	89 | 56 °F
Miami	Clear	81 | 69 °F
New York	Cloudy	49 | 42 °F
Osaka	Light Rain	56 | 44 °F
Paris	Clear	59 | 41 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	56 | 37 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	65 | 46 °F
Salem	Cloudy	53 | 44 °F
San Francisco	Clear	60 | 48 °F
Seoul	Clear	53 | 33 °F
Tokyo	Rain	50 | 42 °F
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	68 | 52 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:57 AM	Low Tide	0.09
8:07 AM	High Tide	1.99
2:22 PM	Low Tide	0.38
8:14 PM	High Tide	2.04

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

NEIL FAMA

"SUP Yoga" is every Thursday, 5pm at Micro Beach right in front of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Ficke launches 'SUP Yoga'

NEIL FAMA

Certified yoga instructor Lisa Ficke, center, and two of her yoga students perform yoga poses atop stand-up paddle boards "SUP Yoga" at Micro Beach, Garapan in front of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In coordination with Saipan Seawinds, a local business that offers kayaks, paddleboards, and other beach amenity rentals, certified yoga instructor Lisa Ficke has started a new yoga practice on Saipan known as stand-up paddle board yoga or "SUP Yoga" in which traditional yoga is performed while balancing on a paddleboard in the water.

According to Ficke, her first introduction to "SUP Yoga" happened after receiving her yoga certification just last year while she was in the Florida right before the pandemic started. She said that one lady in her yoga class was doing it, and said it was really big in the U.S.

On her way back to Saipan, Ficke learned that no one on island was doing "Sup Yoga," which coined the idea in her mind to introduce it to the island herself.

"When I got back, I didn't see anybody doing it here so I wanted to bring it to Saipan, because we have a very active community here, and because of COVID, a lot of people have started practicing their healthy lifestyle at the beach," Ficke said.

Ficke currently holds one session of "SUP Yoga" every Thursday at 5pm at Micro Beach right in front of Hyatt Regency Saipan. "SUP Yoga" sessions cost only $10 per person, and can accommodate about 10 participants per class. Ficke says additional sessions will depend on the total amount of people who sign up.

"It's a very centering experience. You have to put all of your focus in balancing on your core while you practice your yoga. Also, if you're not in the proper position, you can fall off your board. But all you need do is get back on your paddleboard and continue. It's a one hundred percent judgement free zone," Ficke said.

She mentioned that at first it was very intimidating to some of her students to do yoga on a stand-up paddle board.

One student of hers doesn't even know how to swim, but she comes with a little floatie attached to her waist, and she was able to do the poses. She added that there isn't any skill level expected going into it.

"I feel very connected to Lisa, and to everyone in class. We feed off each other's energies."

There's no judgment whatsoever," said one of Ficke's students.

For more information on Ficke's "SUP Yoga" classes, contact Ficke on her Facebook page: Wild Wahine SUP Yoga Fusion.

No timeline given for extracting wedged ship from Suez Canal

SUEZ, Egypt (AP)—A giant container ship remained stuck sideways in Egypt's Suez Canal for a fifth day Saturday, as authorities made new attempts to free the vessel and reopen a crucial waterway whose blockage is disrupting global shipping and trade.

Meanwhile, the head of the Suez Canal Authority said strong winds were "not the only cause" for the Ever Given running aground on Tuesday, appearing to push back against conflicting assessments offered by others. Lt. Gen. Osama Rabei told a news conference Saturday that an investigation was ongoing but did not rule out human or technical error.

The massive Ever Given, a Panama-flagged ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, got stuck in a single-lane stretch of the canal, about six kilometers (3.7 miles) north of the southern entrance, near the city of Suez.

Rabei said he could not predict when the ship might be dislodged. A Dutch salvage firm is attempting to refloat the vessel with tugboats and dredgers, taking advantage of high tides.

Rabei said he remained hopeful that dredging could free the ship without having to resort to removing its cargo, but added that "we are in a difficult situation, it's a bad incident."

Asked about when they expected to free the vessel and reopen the canal, he said: "I can't say because I do not know."

Shoei Kisen, the company that owns the vessel, said it was considering removing containers if other refloating efforts failed.

Two attempts to free the vessel failed Saturday, according to Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement, the ship's management company, and a canal services provider, Leth agencies, despite hopes that a high tide might give the vesslela boost.

Bernhard Schulte had said earlier that "significant progress" was made late Friday at the ship's stern where its rudder was released from sediment.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS [IFB]

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2021-007

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:
April 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Purchase of Vehicle for the Tinian Field Office

The bid package will be available on March 15, 2021, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For any inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before April 9th, 2021.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman,
NMHC Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: March 22, 2021 CLOSING DATE: April 06, 2021 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-019	Accountant I	$26,289.21 - $33,975.00- per annum Classified

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose; Drop-off application at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking for the right person to serve as Executive Director who shall be responsible for implementing the mission and policies set by the Board of Directors while working with the Board to develop and implement both short- and long-term strategic plans for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The Executive Director reports to the Board and is responsible for the overall day to day operations of the Chamber. Duties include managing the SCC's programs, facility, fundraising, financials, and staff; taking a lead role in development efforts; providing the primary liaison between staff and the Board/subcommittees; and providing reports to the Board on the management of the organization.

For a complete job description and to apply, please visit https://www.saipanchamber.com/jobopportunities/.
Applications will be received on a rolling basis until the position is filled, with priority to those who apply before April 16th, 2021.

Nation

Floyd spurred broad push for change globally, activists say

By AARON MORRISON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Richard Wallace had seen it all before, and he wasn't hopeful.

It was, he thought, the same old story: Police kill a Black person, protests erupt, politicians pledge reforms and corporations offer platitudes about supporting needed change. But Wallace, the 38-year-old founder and executive director of Equity and Transformation, a social and economic justice advocacy group in Chicago, came to realize that this time was different.

This time the victim was George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black father of five captured in a sickening citizen video taking his final breaths under a white officer's knee. And this time, the victim would become a global symbol for change much broader than criminal justice reform.

"George Floyd has taken systemic racism from personal problem to America's issue," Wallace said. "It's clear we're seeing a growing and maturing of a movement."

As Minneapolis braces for Monday's opening statements in the trial of Derek Chauvin, the ex-officer who is charged with murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death, so does the world. Floyd was the spark that set the U.S. ablaze. In the days and months after his death on Memorial Day, millions of Americans, along with thousands in cities abroad, took to the streets in protests that were often peaceful but sometimes violent and destructive.

Even as many new supporters rallied to the Black Lives Matter cause, then-President Donald Trump's move to transform the unrest into a winning political issue, and his embrace of white supremacism, left the U.S. seemingly more divided on issues than ever.

Still, Floyd's global impact is undeniable. Federal, state and local governments have taken concrete steps — like supporting reparations and reinvesting in community resources — to address decades of harm visited on Black Americans and other minorities. Corporations, nonprofits, media and the entertainment industry have launched promising diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

People will remember 2020 not just as a year of upheaval over Floyd, but as a year in which people demanded and took bold action toward systemic change, said Nekima Levy Armstrong, a civil rights attorney and activist in Minneapolis. But, she added, much more of it is needed.

For Levy Armstrong, the stakes of the trial are high. The former Minneapolis NAACP branch president has watched her community rise up in response to unchecked police violence, only to have their spirits crushed by an acquittal and lack of grand jury indictments in the cases of Philando Castile, a Black man killed by police in a nearby suburb in 2016, and Jamar Clark, a Black man killed by city police in 2015.

"We have for too long lived inside of a culture of ignorance, not just in the U.S. but worldwide," she said. "I don't think that this country in particular, but the world itself, has ever had to reconcile the mistreatment, the abuse and the dehumanization of Black folks. But for some people, they're now beginning to see we have a problem, and we need to begin to take steps to address these problems."

AP
In this June 6, 2020, file photo, hundreds of demonstrators gather on the Champs de Mars as the Eiffel Tower is seen in the background during a demonstration in Paris to protest against the recent killing of George Floyd.

2 in Seattle, San Francisco face anti-Asian hate charges

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Prosecutors in Seattle and San Francisco have charged men with hate crimes in separate incidents that authorities say targeted people of Asian descent amid a wave of high-profile and sometimes deadly violence against Asian Americans since the pandemic began.

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Los Angeles and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area on Saturday, the latest in a series of rallies in response what many said has become a troubling surge of anti-Asian sentiments.

"We can no longer accept the normalization of being treated as perpetual foreigners in this country," speaker Tammy Kim told a rally in LA's Koreatown.

At rally attended by more than 1,000 people in San Francisco's Civic Center, the city's police chief, Bill Scott, drew loud applause when he said, "Hate is the virus, and love is the vaccination."

On Friday, prosecutors in King County, Washington, charged Christopher Hamner, 51, with three counts of malicious harassment after police say he screamed profanities and threw things at cars in two incidents last week targeting women and children of Asian heritage, The Seattle Times reported Saturday.

In San Francisco, Victor Humberto Brown, 53, made a first court appearance after authorities say he repeatedly punched an Asian American man at a bus stop while shouting an anti-Asian slur.

Brown was initially booked on misdemeanor counts, but prosecutors recently elevated the case to a felony, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. He said in court that he has a post-traumatic stress disorder.

In Seattle, according to court documents, Hamner yelled profanities and threw things at a woman stopped at a red light with her two children, ages 5 and 10, on March 16. Three days later, authorities say Hamner cut off another car driven by an Asian woman, yelled a profanity and the word "Asian" at her and then threw a water bottle at her car after charging at her when she pulled into a parking spot.

Hamner was being held on $75,000 bail on Saturday. It wasn't immediately clear if Hamner, who has not yet made a court appearance, had retained an attorney or would be assigned a public defender.

In the first instance, the woman told her 10-year-old daughter to try to take a cellphone photo of the man. The woman, identified by KIRO-TV as Pamela Cole, posted about the incident on social media and a friend's husband identified Hamner as a possible suspect.

The second woman who was accosted had a dashboard camera in her vehicle that captured the license plate of the other car, which is registered to Hamner, according to court documents. The police detective investigating the case reviewed the video and determined the women's assailant "was clearly Hamner," according to the charges.

Cole, who said she identifies as part Chinese and part Malaysian, told KIRO-TV she felt like "a sitting duck" when Hamner approached her car, hitting his fists together and screaming at her to "Get out! Get out!" while spewing profanities about her Asian heritage.

"I was in complete shock. Are you talking to me?" Cole told the station.

"He jumps out the car, and he's charging at us," she said. "That was the scariest part for me."

In San Francisco, Ron Tuason, an Army veteran of Filipino, Chinese and Spanish descent, told the Chronicle he was at a bus stop in the city's Ingleside neighborhood on March 13 when Brown approached him, yelling "Get out of my country" before using a racial slur meant to denigrate Asian people. Tuason said Brown also said, "It's because of you there's a problem here."

ACROSS THE NATION

City holds distanced ceremonies for mass shooting victims

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)— The city of Boulder encouraged people nationwide to hold a moment of silence and conduct a candle-lighting ceremony to honor the victims of a mass shooting at a local supermarket that killed 10 people last week. Boulder officials asked participants to observe 10 minutes of silence and leave a candle or light in front of their homes at 8 p.m. Saturday to honor the victims. The ceremonies had to be conducted privately in lieu of a mass gathering because of health restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic. Still, residents such as Susan Sierota extolled the virtues of the socially distanced ceremonies. "It's so important to remember the victims and do so with strong community. But right now we can't because of the pandemic," said Sierota, a 30-year Boulder resident. "Normally, we can gather around and show people that we're in this together." The former CEO of a Colorado tech startup will leave a candle by her front window for 10 days to honor the 10 victims of the King Soopers store shooting, who include 20-year-old Denny Stong; 23-year-old Neven Stanisic; 25-year-old Rikki Olds; 49-year-old Tralona Bartkowiak; 51-year-old Teri Leiker; 51-year-old Eric Talley; 59-year-old Suzanne Fountain; 61-year-old Kevin Mahoney; 62-year-old Lynn Murray; and 65-year-old Jody Waters. "There are lots of candles in windows on my street," Sierota said. "It's comforting." David A. Humdy, a 25-year Colorado resident, said the ceremonies are important as a way to reflect on what happened.

Police: 2 dead, 3 arrested in Virginia Beach shootings

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—Overnight shootings near the Atlantic oceanfront in Virginia Beach left two people dead and eight wounded in a scene described by authorities on Saturday as "very chaotic." A woman who died was likely an innocent bystander, authorities said, while the other person, a Black man, was killed by a police officer. It was not clear if the man was armed and the officer's body camera was not activated at the time of the shooting. Three men ranging in age from 18 to 22 have been arrested and face charges that include felonious assault and reckless handling of a firearm, Virginia Beach police said in a statement on Saturday. The first shooting occurred shortly after 11 p.m. Friday along an outdoor strip of hotels, clubs and restaurants that was densely packed with people on one of the first warm days of the year. Witness Akereia Drayton said Saturday that she was coming out of a club on Friday night after the shooting ended and saw "mass chaos" and many people running. "People were literally falling over themselves," Drayton said.

Asia

IN DEADLIEST DAY SINCE COUP

Myanmar forces kill scores

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—As Myanmar's military celebrated the annual Armed Forces Day holiday with a parade Saturday in the country's capital, soldiers and police elsewhere killed scores of people while suppressing protests in the deadliest bloodletting since last month's coup.

The online news site Myanmar Now reported late Saturday that the death toll had reached 114. A count issued by an independent researcher in Yangon who has been compiling near-real time death tolls put the total at 107, spread over more than two dozen cities and towns. That's more than the previous high on March 14, which ranged from 74 to 90.

The killings quickly drew international condemnation, including a joint statement from the defense chiefs of 12 countries.

"A professional military follows international standards for conduct and is responsible for protecting – not harming – the people it serves," it said. "We urge the Myanmar Armed Forces to cease violence and work to restore respect and credibility with the people of Myanmar that it has lost through its actions."

The European Union's delegation to Myanmar said that the 76th Myanmar Armed Forces Day "will stay engraved as a day of terror and dishonor."

AP

Anti-coup protesters prepare makeshift bow and arrows to confront police in Thaketa township Yangon, Myanmar, Saturday, March 27, 2021.

"The killing of unarmed civilians, including children, are indefensible acts," it added.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Vajda in a statement said "security forces are murdering unarmed civilians."

"These are not the actions of a professional military or police force," he wrote. "Myanmar's people have spoken clearly: they do not want to live under military rule."

The death toll in Myanmar has been steadily rising as authorities grow more forceful in suppressing opposition to the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The coup reversed years of progress toward democracy after five decades of military rule.

Figures collected by the Yangon researcher, who asked not to be named for his security, have generally tallied with the counts issued at the end of each day by the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners, which documents deaths and arrests and is widely seen as a definitive source. The Associated Press is unable to independently confirm the death tolls.

Up through Friday, the association had verified 328 deaths in the post-coup crackdown.

Junta chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing did not directly refer to the protest movement when he gave his nationally televised Armed Forces Day speech before thousands of soldiers in Naypyitaw. He referred only to "terrorism which can be harmful to state tranquility and social security," and called it unacceptable.

China sanctions US, Canadian officials over Xinjiang

BEIJING (AP)—China announced new sanctions against U.S. and Canadian officials in a growing political and economic feud over its policies in the traditionally Muslim region of Xinjiang.

A statement from the Foreign Ministry on Saturday said the head of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Gayle Manchin, will be barred from visiting mainland China, Hong Kong or Macao, and having any dealings with Chinese financial entities.

The commission's vice chair, Tony Perkins, was also included on the sanctions list, along with Canadian Member of Parliament Michael Chong and the body's Subcommittee on International Human Rights.

China has strongly rejected accusations of human rights abuses in Xinjiang and has launched calls for boycotts and other punishments against foreign firms including retailer H&M and Nike, along with sanctions against foreign government officials and activists whom it says are spreading false information about its policies toward Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang.

"They must stop political manipulation on Xinjiang-related issues, stop interfering in China's internal affairs in any form and refrain from going further down the wrong path. Otherwise, they will get their fingers burnt," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

China announced sanctions Friday against British officials and H&M products were dropped from Chinese websites over their opposition to buying cotton from Xinjiang. The ruling Communist Party's Youth League launched attacks on H&M following the European Union's decision to join the United States, Britain and Canada in imposing sanctions on Chinese officials blamed for abuses in Xinjiang.

More than 1 million members of the Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities have been confined to detention camps in Xinjiang, according to foreign governments and researchers. Authorities there are accused of imposing forced labor and coercive birth control measures.

The Chinese government rejects complaints of abuses and says the camps are for job training to support economic development and combat Islamic radicalism.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the sanctions "baseless" retaliation for U.S. measures against Chinese officials.

"Beijing's attempts to intimidate and silence those speaking out for human rights and fundamental freedoms only contribute to the growing international scrutiny of the ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang," he said.

World

AS DAILY DEATHS NEAR 4,000

'Worst may lie ahead for Brazil'

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil currently accounts for one-quarter of the entire world's daily COVID-19 deaths, far more than any other single nation, and health experts are warning that the nation is on the verge of even greater calamity.

The nation's seven-day average of 2,400 deaths stands to reach to 3,000 within weeks, six experts told the Associated Press. That's nearly the worst level seen by the U.S., though Brazil has two-thirds its population. Spikes of daily deaths could soon hit 4,000; on Friday there were 3,650.

Having glimpsed the abyss, there is growing recognition shutdowns are no longer avoidable -- not just among experts, but also many mayors and governors. Restrictions on activity they implemented last year were half-hearted and consistently sabotaged by President Jair Bolsonaro, who sought to stave off economic doom. He remains unconvinced of any need for clampdown, which leaves local leaders pursuing a patchwork of measures to prevent the death toll from spiraling further.

It may be too late, with a more contagious variant rampaging across Brazil. For the first time, new daily cases topped 100,000 on March 25, with many more uncounted. Miguel Nicolelis, professor of Neurobiology at Duke University who advised several Brazilian governors and mayors on pandemic control, anticipates the total death toll reaching 500,000 by July and exceeding that of the U.S. by year-end.

"We have surpassed levels never imagined for a country with a public health care system, a history of efficient immunization campaigns and health workers who are second to none in the world," Nicolelis said. "The next stage is the health system collapse."

The system is already buckling, with almost all states' intensive care units near or at capacity. Dr. José Antônio Curiati, a supervisor at Sao Paulo's Hospital das Clinicas, the biggest hospital complex in Latin America, said its beds are full, but patients keep arriving. The city's oxygen supply isn't guaranteed, and stocks of sedatives required for intubation in intensive care units will soon run out.

"Four thousand deaths a day seems to be right around the corner," Curiati said.

On March 17 in northeastern Piaui state, nurse Polyena Silveira wept beside a COVID-19 patient who died on the floor for lack of beds at her public hospital. A photo capturing the moment went viral and served as a national wake-up call.

"When he was gone, I had two minutes to feel sorry before moving to the next patient," Silveira, 33, told the AP. "In eight years as a nurse, I'd never felt as much pain as that night. I'm near my limit, physically and mentally."

Brazil's state-run science and technology institute, Fiocruz, on Tuesday called for a 14-day lockdown to reduce transmission by 40%. Natalia Pasternak, a microbiologist who presides over the Question of Science Institute, pointed to a local example of success: The mid-size city of Araraquara in Sao Paulo state last month implemented lockdown and has seen its cases and deaths recede.

Pasternak declined to estimate Brazil's looming daily death toll but said the trend is for continued growth if nothing is done.

"We need coordinated action, and that's probably not going to happen because the federal government has no real interest in pursuing preventative actions," Pasternak said. "(Mayors and governors) are trying to implement preventative measures, but separately and in their own ways. This isn't the best approach, but it's better than nothing."

UK variant hunters lead global race to stay ahead of COVID

LONDON (AP)—On March 4, 2020, when there were just 84 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.K., professor Sharon Peacock recognized that the country needed to expand its capacity to analyze the genetic makeup of the virus.

The Cambridge University microbiologist understood that genomic sequencing would be crucial in tracking the disease, controlling outbreaks and developing vaccines. So she began working with colleagues around the country to put together a plan. Within a month, the government had provided 20 million pounds ($28 million) to fund their work.

The initiative helped make Britain a world leader in rapidly analyzing the genetic material from large numbers of COVID-19 infections, generating more than 40% of the genomic sequences identified to date. These days, their top priority is finding new variants that are more dangerous or resistant to vaccines, information that is critical to helping researchers modify the vaccines or develop new ones to combat the ever-changing virus.

"They've show the world how you do this," said Dr. Eric Topol, chair of innovative medicine at Scripps Research in San Diego, California.

Genomic sequencing is essentially the process of mapping the unique genetic makeup of individual organisms — in this case the virus that causes COVID-19. While the technique is used by researchers to study everything from cancer to outbreaks of food poisoning and the flu virus, this is the first time authorities are using it to provide real-time surveillance of a global pandemic.

Peacock, 62, heads Britain's sequencing effort as executive director and chair of the COVID-19 UK Genomics Consortium, known as COG-UK, the group she helped create a year ago.

During the first week of this month, COG-UK sequenced 13,171 viruses, up from 260 during its first 12 days of operation in March last year, according to weekly reports on the group's website.

Behind that growth is a system that links the science of genomic sequencing with the resources of Britain's national health care system.

Positive COVID-19 tests from hospitals and community testing programs around the country are sent to a network of 17 laboratories where scientists spend their days extracting the genetic material from each swab and analyzing it to identify that virus' unique genetic code. The sequences are then cross-referenced with public health data to better understand how, where and why COVID-19 is spreading.

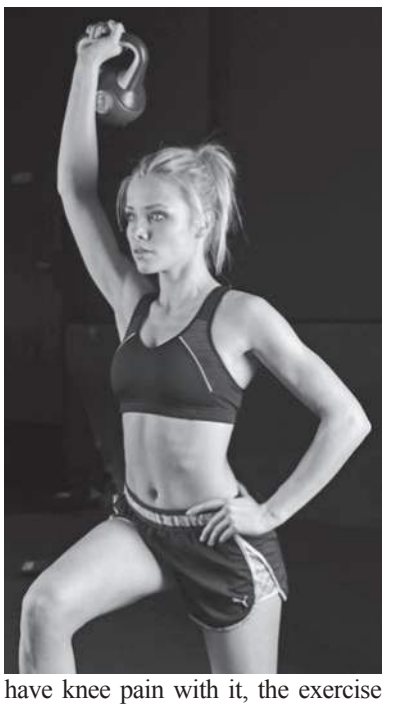
Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

WORKING OUT FROM HOME

You don't know squat ... until you learn these

tips on how to do one

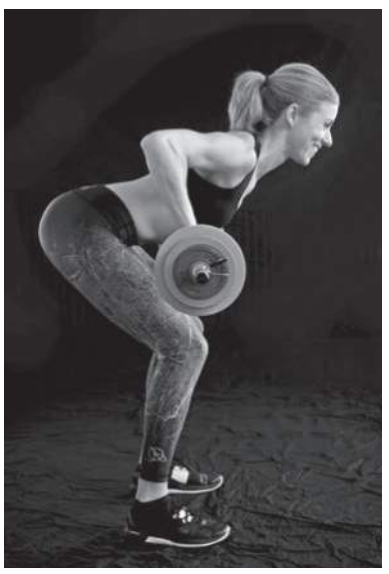


By THOMAS O'TOOLE
USA TODAY/TNS

For anyone starting an exercise program or for those who work out every day, squats can be incredibly beneficial and as challenging as you want to make them. To explain the variations and what squats can do for you, we went to William Suits, Physical Therapist and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Physical Therapy Department at the University of Michigan-Flint.

"Squats are for just about everyone," Suits said, "and there are different ways you can change them, in terms of position, speed, depth, the number of reps."

To illustrate that, Suits explains in the accompanying video seven variations of the squat: chair squat with



hand assistance, chair squat, squat, staggered stance squat, Sumo squat, Bulgarian split squat, single leg squat and squat jump.

He also shares his thoughts in more detail on the benefits of this lower-body workout and how convenient they are to do at home:

"Lower body strengthening exercises can help keep older adults moving and mobile; they can help active adults maintain a healthy lifestyle, and they can help athletes of all competition levels maintain or improve their performance.

"There's really no downside to basic strength training for the legs! And the good thing about those who are missing the gym is that the rules of gravity still apply, and you can find things around the house and use them as weights.

"Squats are a more fundamental leg strength training exercise. While many believe they are bad for the knees, most research actually supports the concept that they are beneficial for knee joint health for most people. That said, you should not experience knee pain, or pain anywhere else for that matter, during a squat. If this occurs, you should consider consulting with a health care provider such as a physician or physical therapist.

"Whether you are quarantined and missing your gym or don't know where to start, there should be something for everyone here. In addition to understanding your body's ability with choosing an exercise, it is equally important to know how many to do. The standard place to start is 3 sets of 10 of an exercise that is somewhat challenging but safely doable. Some people might want to do a lot more, and for others this might even be a lot compared to what they are used to. You can also change how deep you move into a position, and how fast you move as long as you are in control of the movement. Again, make sure you know your body's current abilities to minimize the risk of getting injured, and don't be afraid to ask for help!

"There are a lot of strong opinions about proper form with squatting. The majority of these opinions are very well-intentioned, but the truth is that if you are just doing a basic body weight squat, the most important thing about form is that it feels good to you! There is no one-size-fits-all 'perfect form.' and sometimes a little variety can be beneficial. Form matters the most when dealing with an injury or anatomical constraint, lifting a heavier weight, moving at a higher velocity, or lifting to improve athletic performance. In these situations I recommend professional guidance by a sports physical therapist, strength and conditioning coach, or athletic trainer.

"Different forms will challenge muscles differently. As one example, if your knees go forward over your toes, this might challenge your quads a little more, but as long as you don't have knee pain with it, the exercise itself isn't inherently bad, I promise!

"Similarly, if you emphasize sticking your butt back as you lower, you might challenge your glutes a bit more. This gets more nuanced if you are squatting with heavy weight or trying to improve performance, or dealing with joint soreness or rehabilitating from an injury—form is more important in these cases. For most people without any preexisting conditions, it honestly is most important that it just feels good. It sounds too simple to be true, but it usually is."

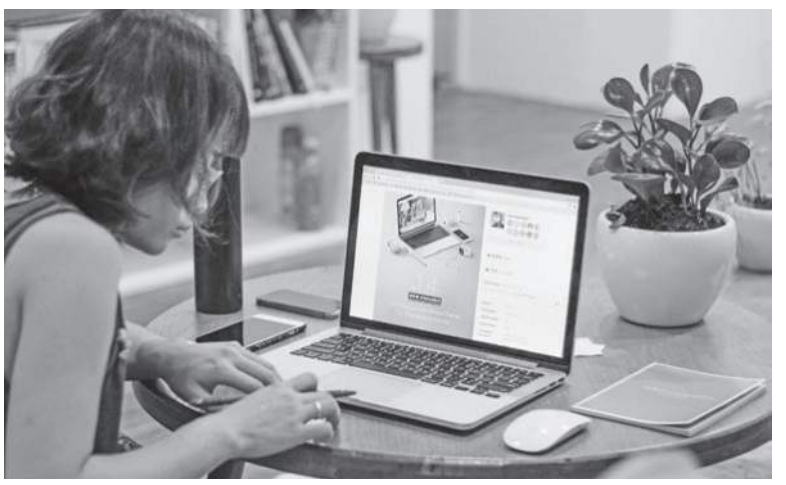
COVID-19 impact: Work from home more appealing than return to 'business as usual,' Harvard survey shows

By TERRY COLLINS
USA TODAY/TNS

Despite potentially longer hours, most Americans enjoy working remotely and want the option to keep doing so post-pandemic, according to a new Harvard Business School Online survey.

As COVID-19 forced countless companies to let employees work remotely and presented new challenges such as readjusting their home life and fighting Zoom fatigue from numerous virtual meetings, most of the 1,500 people surveyed say they excelled and even grew in their professions.

"I think it's a combination of factors, like a Jekyll and Hyde, so to speak," said Patrick Mullane, the school's executive director. "We love working remotely in some ways; it gives us more time to focus, spend time with our families, and no long commutes back and forth to work.



"We found out that we can do a lot without having to be face-to-face as COVID really forced that issue," Mullane said.

The survey, released on Thursday, comes as many Americans continue to work remotely more than a year after the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic and as more Americans are getting the highly-sought COVID vaccinations.

However, the survey also showed that while most employees miss their colleagues and other aspects of office life, they don't want to go back to "business as usual," as they want more flexibility doing their jobs, Mullane said.

About 81% surveyed say they either don't want to go back to the office or would prefer a hybrid schedule from now on. Mullane said 27% of employees hope to work remotely full-time, and another 61% would like to work two or three days a week from home.

This mindset is going to be tricky for employers, Mullane said.

"It's hard to know how it plays out," Mullane said. "So while everyone is jazzed about remote work, there will be some challenges to work through."

Mullane also believes that most employers who adapt to a more flexible work environment may get an advantage over their competition in attracting talent.

"It could make some (companies) more successful and profitable in the long run," he said.

However, about 18% of employees say they want to go back to the office full-time. Those include workers who have kids at home, and those married, compared to those without children and single, respectively, said Michele Reynolds, who helped direct Harvard's remote worker survey.

Reynolds said while 70% of those surveyed have enjoyed spending more time with their loved ones, she added that "some may think there's too much family togetherness," as they would welcome being alongside their co-workers.

What should the return to the office include?

But those surveyed also said there should be some new workplace conditions. About 51% of employees say they are uncomfortable going back to the office until they're fully vaccinated, and 71% are hesitant to go back until everyone is fully vaccinated.

Also, 54% of employees surveyed expect some form of social distancing in the office, including their colleagues being seated at least six feet apart and being required to wear masks.

"It begs the question about how employers are going to make their employees feel comfortable in office settings," Mullane said. "I'm sure there are going to be plenty of discussions with employers asking, 'How do I bring them back safely?'"

Life & Style

Osbourne off 'The Talk' after inquiry into racism discussion

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS says Sharon Osbourne will no longer appear on its daytime show "The Talk" after a heated on-air discussion about racism earlier this month.

The network said Friday Osbourne had decided to leave the show after a review that found in part that "Sharon's behavior toward her co-hosts during the March 10 episode did not align with our values for a respectful workplace."

The network said its internal inquiry said the show's co-hosts, including Osbourne and Sheryl Underwood, were not properly prepared by the show's team for a discussion on race. But it said there was no evidence found to support Osbourne's claim CBS ordered she be confronted about her support of British TV personality Piers Morgan.

Osbourne

Morgan, who is a friend of Osbourne's, left "Good Morning Britain" after saying he didn't believe Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, when she said in an interview that she had considered suicide when unhappy with her life in Britain's royal family.

"The Talk" has been on hiatus while the March 10 discussion was investigated. CBS said it had conducted workshops and training this week "about equity, inclusion and cultural awareness for the hosts, producers and crew."

There was no immediate comment from Osbourne's publicist.

No replacement has been announced. CBS said the show will not return until April 12.

During the discussion of Morgan, Underwood asked Osbourne, "what would you say to people who may feel that, while you're standing by your friend, it appears that you gave validation or safe haven to something that he has uttered that is racist, even if you don't agree?"

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Eddie Murphy inducted into NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eddie Murphy was inducted into the NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame at the organization's show that highlighted works by entertainers and athletes of color. After Murphy accepted his induction award Saturday night, the actor-comedian said he was "very moved" by the honor. He was presented the award by his longtime friend and "Coming 2 America" co-star Arsenio Hall. "I've been making movies for 40 years now ... 40 years. This is the perfect thing to commemorate that and be brought into the hall of fame," he said. "Thank you very much. I'm very moved." Murphy went on to send a message to Hall about his famous red leather suit from his 1983 stand-up special "Delirious." "My red suit was not that tight Arsenio," Murphy said. "I get a lot of cracks about that red suit. When I was rocking that red suit, that (expletive) was fly." The hall of fame induction is bestowed on an individual who is viewed as a pioneer in their respective field and whose influence shaped the "profession for generations to come." Previous inductees include Oprah Winfrey, Stevie Wonder, Spike Lee, Ray Charles and Sidney Poitier. The most recent honorees to be inducted were Cheryl Boone Isaacs and Paris Barclay in 2014.

5,000 attend rock concert in Barcelona after COVID-19 screen

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—If one overlooked the white face masks dotting the tightly packed crowd of music lovers, it was almost like pre-pandemic times in Barcelona's Palau Sant Jordi concert hall Saturday night. Five thousand rock fans enjoyed a real-as-can-be concert after passing a same-day coronavirus screening, to test its effectiveness in preventing outbreaks of the virus at large cultural events. The only rule inside the show was the strict use of the high-quality face masks provided by the concert organizers. "We were able to evade reality for a while," said 40-year-old Jose Parejo. "We were inside our small concert bubble. And we were even able to remember back in time when things like this one were normal. Things that nowadays aren't that normal, sadly." The show by Spanish rock group Love of Lesbian had the special permission of Spanish health authorities. While the rest of the country was limited to gatherings of no more than four people in closed spaces, the concertgoers were able to mix freely. The musicians were also swept up in the moment. "It's been a year and half since we last set foot on a scenario as a band," singer Santi Balmes told the crowd. "This is so. ... some of the musicians are crying over here."

Alabama Shakes drummer facing child abuse charges

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The drummer for Grammy Award-winning rock band Alabama Shakes is in custody on child abuse charges. Steven William Johnson, 35, was arrested Wednesday after being indicted on charges of willful torture, willful abuse and cruelly beating or otherwise willfully maltreating a child under the age of 18, news outlets reported. Johnson was taken to the Limestone County Jail. Bond was set at $21,500. It was not clear if Johnson has an attorney who could comment on the charges. Managers for the band did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. An arraignment date is set for April 7. Johnson pleaded guilty in March 2020 to violating a domestic violence protection order in Limestone County. He received a suspended sentence of a year in jail, with 24 months on probation. The Athens, Alabama-based band has been on hiatus since 2018, when lead singer Brittany Howard decided to focus on her solo project.

US court sides with photographer in fight over Warhol art

NEW YORK (AP)—A U.S. appeals court sided with a photographer Friday in a copyright dispute over how a foundation has marketed a series of Andy Warhol works of art based on one of her pictures of Prince. The New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the artwork created by Warhol before his 1987 death was not transformative and could not overcome copyright obligations to photographer Lynn Goldsmith. It returned the case to a lower court for further proceedings. In a statement, Goldsmith said she was grateful to the outcome in the 4-year-old fight initiated by a lawsuit from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. She said the foundation wanted to "use my photograph without asking my permission or paying me anything for my work." "I fought this suit to protect not only my own rights, but the rights of all photographers and visual artists to make a living by licensing their creative work—and also to decide when, how, and even whether to exploit their creative works or license others to do so," Goldsmith said. Warhol created a series of 16 artworks based on a 1981 picture of Prince that was taken by Goldsmith, a pioneering photographer known for portraits of famous musicians. The series contained 12 silkscreen paintings, two screen prints on paper and two drawings.

Dinner theater drops 'Cinderella' with mostly white cast

CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP)—A suburban Minneapolis dinner theater has scrapped plans for a production of "Cinderella" because the cast was mostly white and it didn't fit with its efforts to become more diverse on and off stage. Instead of putting on the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres will make its next production "Footloose," likely debuting in 2022. The theater company cited its "ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion" in making the move. Artistic director Michael Brindisi said the cast did not align with its work toward equity and inclusivity. "It was 98% white," he said. "That doesn't work with what we're saying we're going to do." Brindisi said he considered recasting, but ultimately decided to "start fresh with a clean slate." Some of the actors were disappointed, he said, "but every one to a person said they got it and that they respected the very hard decision we had to make," the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported. After the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last May, Brindisi said he realized it was time to "change our culture and make us more diverse and more equitable as a company. We've really dug in on diversity, equity and inclusion, the commitment to social justice and getting more diversity into our business across the board." Floyd, a Black man, died after a white police officer pressed his knee against his neck for about nine minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and pleading that he couldn't breathe. The widely seen video set off street protests in Minneapolis, some violent, that spread across the U.S. and the world.

Marriage for insurance reasons follows quarantine pregnancy

DEAR ABBY: I am 40. During the quarantine, I got pregnant by someone I was just starting to know. I didn't think I was able to have any more kids. My daughter is now 12, and suddenly here I am—pregnant. I don't love the father. In fact, I'm pretty sure he loves someone else. Nonetheless, we ended up getting married for insurance purposes.

A few months ago, I found out he fathered a child with his uncle's wife. It eats me up inside, and I can't move past that. What kind of person does that? He was never acknowledged as the father, and the aunt/mom didn't want him around because she is still married to his uncle.

Well, I am now close to my due date. I don't know how I can make this work or if I even should. I raised my daughter alone because her dad was abusive, so being a single parent is nothing new for me. Him getting involved with his aunt—to me that is MORALLY wrong, and I will never think that is acceptable. Help me decide what to do.

PREGNANT AND CONFUSED

DEAR PREGNANT: You married the father of this child because of the insurance, not because this was a love match. You think he is in love with someone else. Did your husband tell you he had fathered his uncle's wife's child? Did the wife? Are you sure this information is even true?

Not once in your letter did you mention that you have feelings for this man; in fact, you feel he is morally repugnant. Is this the kind of life you want to live? The answer to that question will tell you what you need to do after the birth of the baby.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A friend and I played bridge together for about eight years. I thought we had a close friendship. I introduced her to online bridge because I knew she missed playing in person. She immediately became hypercritical and started telling me and the other two ladies what we were doing wrong and what we should be doing. She was especially hard on me.

In private emails, I tried, to no avail, telling her that this game was not worth losing our friendship over. Her barbs continued for the next two weeks, all aimed specifically at me. After three tries to explain how her attitude was eroding our bond, I stopped responding. She had been extremely cruel the last time we played.

She called me a dictator and resigned from playing with us. I have no problem filling her spot, but the last email she sent me was titled "death of a friendship." We haven't spoken since, and I don't know what to do. Should I just leave it or make some further attempt to repair the friendship? I had never seen this behavior in her to this extent before, and I cannot understand what provoked it.

JUST A GAME IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR JUST A GAME: Whatever provoked your former partner to turn on you and attempt to embarrass you in front of the other players, I cannot guess either. However, in light of what has happened, you would be better off blocking her emails if she sends any more. She may be right—the friendship is dead. But the person who killed it was her.

■■■

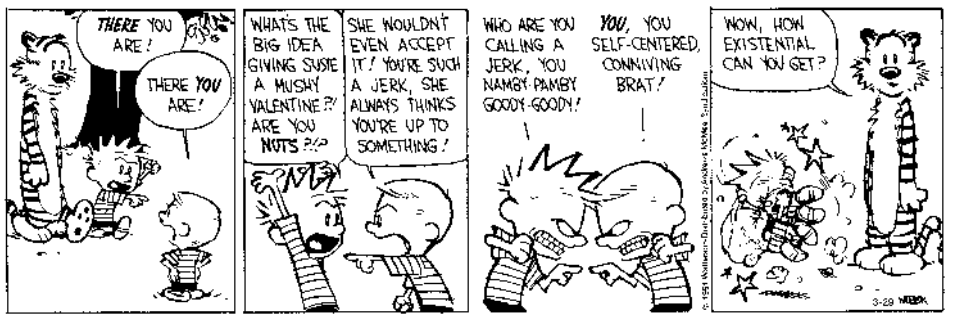
Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

COPYRIGHT 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

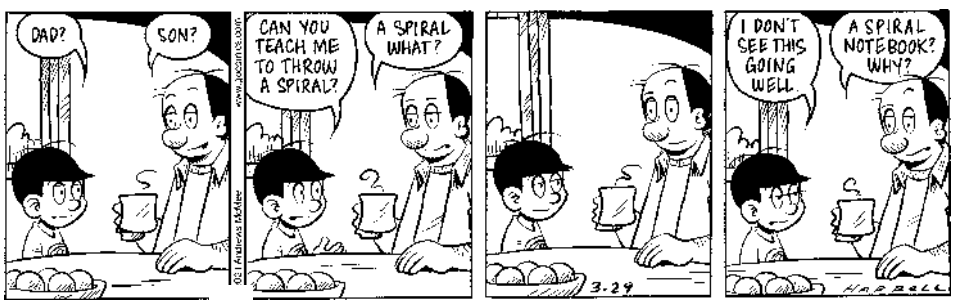

THERE YOU ARE!
THERE YOU ARE!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA GIVING SUSIE A MUSHY VALENTINE?! ARE YOU NUTS?!?
SHE WOULDN'T EVEN ACCEPT IT! YOU'RE SUCH A JERK, SHE ALWAYS THINKS YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A JERK, YOU NAMBY-PAMBY GOODY-GOODY!
YOU, YOU SELF-CENTERED, CONNIVING BRAT!
WOW, HOW EXISTENTIAL. CAN YOU GET?
3-29

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

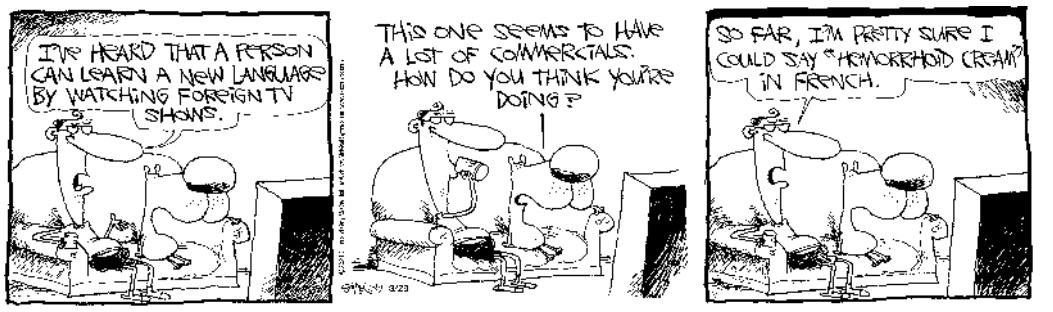
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'VE HEARD THAT A PERSON CAN LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE BY WATCHING FOREIGN TV SHOWS.
THIS ONE SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF COMMERCIALS. HOW DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
SO FAR, I'M PRETTY SURE I COULD SAY "HEMORRHOID CREAM" IN FRENCH.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

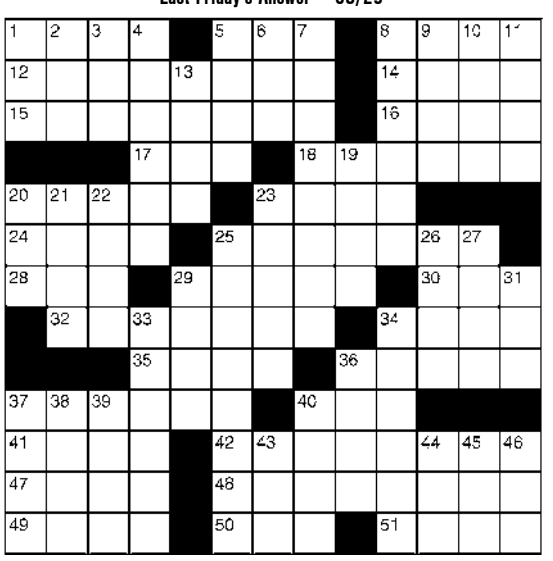
ACROSS
1 Garden intruder
5 Violin tuner
8 Nepal's continent
12 Etching specialist
14 Fed. accident investigator
15 "Take it easy!"
16 Barbie, e.g.
17 Uno + uno
18 Neighbor of Sweden
20 Set straight
23 "Uh-uh"
24 Ordered
25 "Have courage!"
28 950, in old Rome
29 Lionel Richie hit of 1982
30 Bobby of hockey
32 "Don't miss it!"
34 Earth
35 "Arrivederci!"
36 Viral web sensations
37 Insult
40 Plant seeds
41 Marx or Malden
42 "Tell me the truth!"
47 Human rights lawyer Clooney
48 Trite
49 Desires
50 Ballot marks
51 Chest muscles, briefly

DOWN
1 Spider's creation
2 Compass dir.
3 Silly Putty container
4 Coat with flour
5 USMC ranks
6 Slithery fish
7 1968 Winter Olympics city
8 NBC journalist Mitchell
9 Pack cargo
10 Actress Fisher
11 With skill
13 Soon, poetically
19 Grand Ole —
20 "Shark Tank" network
21 Mary's follower
22 Between jobs
23 Prefix with surgeon
25 Rye holder
26 "Va-va- —!"
27 A Great Lake
29 Reedy
31 "Treasure Island" monogram
33 Immune response orchestrators
34 Finalized
36 Heath
37 Fine
38 Notoriety
39 Actress Drescher
40 "— Gotta Have It" (Spike Lee film)
43 Wife of Adam
44 Language suffix
45 Moment
46 Gridiron scores (Abbr.)

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	B	C		M	A	R	A		L	I	E	S
D	U	O		M	A	X			A	C	C	T
A	R	S		N		H	E			F	T	F
		M	A		S				O	O	O	S
T	F	F	M	S		O	K	A	Y			
O	A	T	S		S	U	N	B	A	T	H	E
F	R	I		I	O	G	F	S		A	F	R
U	N	C	L	O		H	E			B	A	R
			E	A	S	T		P	O	L	L	S
C	L	E	A	N			S	L	O	E		
O	A	R	S			O	L	A	N	T	H	E
O	T	O	E		S	U	E			O	O	O
L	E	O	S			I	D	E		P	E	N

Last Friday's Answer 03/29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Hilty, 40; Lucy Lawless, 53; Amy Sedaris, 60; Eric Idle, 78.

Happy Birthday: A positive attitude will open doors this year. Pick up the pace, and see how much you can accomplish. Sharing with someone who is heading in a similar direction will make your journey sweeter. Energy and enthusiasm will carry you to the finish line. Focus on making things happen. Romantic relationships, commitment and security are heading your way. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 23, 35, 43, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention to how you look and how you present yourself to others. Keeping fit and living a healthy lifestyle will attract people who appreciate life and enjoy similar pastimes. Personal gain looks promising if you collaborate with like-minded people. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Pay attention to detail; do the best job possible. Put your heart into assisting others and helping yourself. Strive for the outcome you desire. Quickly size up situations and risks that will leave you in limbo. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take the initiative, do your homework and put your plan in motion. An opportunity will develop if you are proactive and ready to take on a challenge all by yourself. Don't listen to someone who talks big; do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take better care of your emotional and physical well-being. Don't let down your guard when opposition arises. Look for an alternative way to follow through with your plans. A joint venture will not offer what you expect in return. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to allow uncertainty regarding a partnership to lead you in the wrong direction. Think for yourself, and take action based on what you see as the best path for you to follow. Personal growth and self-improvement are favored. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Live up to your promises, and take care of business. Walk away from a no-win situation you face with someone trying to use manipulative tactics that can stand between you and your dreams. A positive attitude and personal change are favored. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Consider the best way to achieve happiness. Start making improvements that will ensure you have the confidence to carry out your plans. All talk and no action will lead to disappointment. Don't count on others to do things for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A secretive approach to what you want to achieve will ward off interference. A change at home or to the way you live will get you one step closer to the way you envision your life unfolding. Stop dreaming and start doing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make changes at home that will add to your comfort and convenience. A sideline business or making it easier to earn a living from home will help you distance yourself from individuals who are misleading or detrimental to future advancement. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be willing to make the first move. Size up your situation, then take an innovative approach to using your skills and handling your cash. Control your emotions, and you'll avoid facing a problem that limits your choices. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Hold on to your cash. Search for the best deal. Bide your time. If you act in haste, it will cost you financially, emotionally or legally. Sort through the pros and cons before making a decision. Anger will only make matters worse. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Gear up and hold your head high. Use your imagination, and you'll discover a superb idea that will help you save time and money. Don't buy into someone else's dream. Consider your options, then research diligently. Leave nothing to chance. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, opportunistic and trendy. You are restless and imaginative.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪stars: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2			7		8	6	
6			4		8			5
		3		2				9
	1		7				2	
9		8		3		6		7
	6				9		5	
5				9		4		
2			5		4			1
	3	9		6			8	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	7	4	9	2	8	6	3	1
2	6	8	3	1	5	7	9	4
3	9	1	4	6	7	5	2	8
6	2	5	8	9	1	3	4	7
7	4	9	5	3	2	8	1	6
1	8	3	7	4	6	2	5	9
9	5	2	6	8	4	1	7	3
8	3	7	1	5	9	4	6	2
4	1	6	2	7	3	9	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LARRY KING (1933-2021) Solution: 10 letters

G	S	M	C	A	L	L	E	R	S	J	H	O	S	T
U	N	B	I	A	S	E	D	S	U	L	U	H	W	U
S	O	I	R	C	N	L	S	L	I	M	A	I	H	E
A	I	P	K	O	K	N	I	C	E	R	T	A	N	C
T	T	S	E	C	O	E	O	V	O	T	R	O	H	N
O	S	R	T	N	I	K	Y	N	E	V	S	A	V	E
D	E	H	I	S	S	T	L	R	E	A	I	T	I	R
A	U	W	A	A	E	E	I	Y	E	A	A	Y	E	W
Y	Q	O	P	W	H	U	C	L	N	R	D	W	W	A
O	E	H	I	Ⓝ	Ⓝ	Ⓒ	G	N	O	N	N	I	M	L
I	D	S	M	A	N	D	E	L	A	P	A	O	B	A
D	E	B	A	T	E	T	E	L	D	H	E	D	M	U
A	C	I	P	O	T	S	E	W	E	R	C	R	S	T
R	E	G	I	E	Z	N	L	A	R	R	Y	J	R	U
J	A	C	K	I	E	S	N	A	F	I	M	A	I	M

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/29

Aene, Andy, Annette, Brooklyn, Callers, Cannon, Chaia, Chair, Chance, CNN, Crew, Danny, Debate, Fans, Freda, Gleason, Guests, Harvey, Host, Hulu, Jackie, Julie, Larry Jr., Lawrence, Live, Mandela, Miami, Mickey, Mutual, Nice, Open, Ora TV, Politicking, Questions, Radio, Roles, Sharon, Shawn, Show, Slim, Topic, Twitter, Unbiased, USA Today, View, WIOD, Wise, WMBM, Zeiger

Last Friday's Answer: Swell

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Barnes beats buzzer with 3, Kings stun Cavaliers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Harrison Barnes hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer after catching an inbounds pass from the opposite end of the court and the Sacramento Kings beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 100-98 on Saturday night.

Barnes finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds. De'Aaron Fox had 36 points and six assists, and Richaun Holmes added 10 points and 14 rebounds. Sacramento has won four straight, matching its longest streak of the season.

Cleveland's Collin Sexton scored 26 points, including a layup with 1.6 seconds remaining after Holmes was called for goaltending.

That made it 98-97. Fox then heaved the ball from one baseline to Barnes, who caught the ball and took a few steps before launching a 26-footer as the buzzer sounded. As soon as the ball went through the net, Kings players stormed the court and mobbed Barnes. The play was reviewed and upheld.

Darius Garland had 18 points for Cleveland.

Knicks 102, Bucks 96

In Milwaukee, Alec Burks and RJ Barrett each scored 21 points and New York beat Milwaukee, with the Bucks playing without Giannis Antetokounmpo and three other injured starters.

The victory was costly for the Knicks, who lost starting center Mitchell Robinson to a broken right foot in the first quarter. He will be re-evaluated when the Knicks return to New York on Sunday.

Antetokounmpo has a sprained left knee. Brother Thanasis Antetokounmpo had 23 points and Jordan Nwora 21 for the Bucks. They lost their second straight after eight consecutive victories.

Jazz 126, Grizzlies 110

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell had 35 points and seven assists and NBA-leading Utah beat Memphis for its 19th straight home victory.

Jordan Clarkson added 28 points, and Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 14 rebounds to help Utah improve to 34-11

Jonas Valanciunas had 13 points and 11 rebounds for Memphis. Kyle Anderson was the top scorer with 16 points. Dillon Brooks added 13 and Ja Morant chipped in 12.

The Grizzlies lost both games in the two-game set at Utah.

Clippers 122, 76ers 112

In Los Angeles, Kawhi Leonard scored 28 points, Terance Mann added a season-high 23 and Los Angeles beat Philadelphia in its first game against former coach Doc Rivers.

Rivers led the Clippers for seven seasons and directed them to six playoff appearances. He took the Philadelphia job less than a week after being fired by Los Angeles.

Paul George added 24 points for the Clippers. They have won five straight and six of seven.

Tobias Harris had 29 points for the Sixers. They had won six straight on the road.

Pelicans 112, Mavericks 103

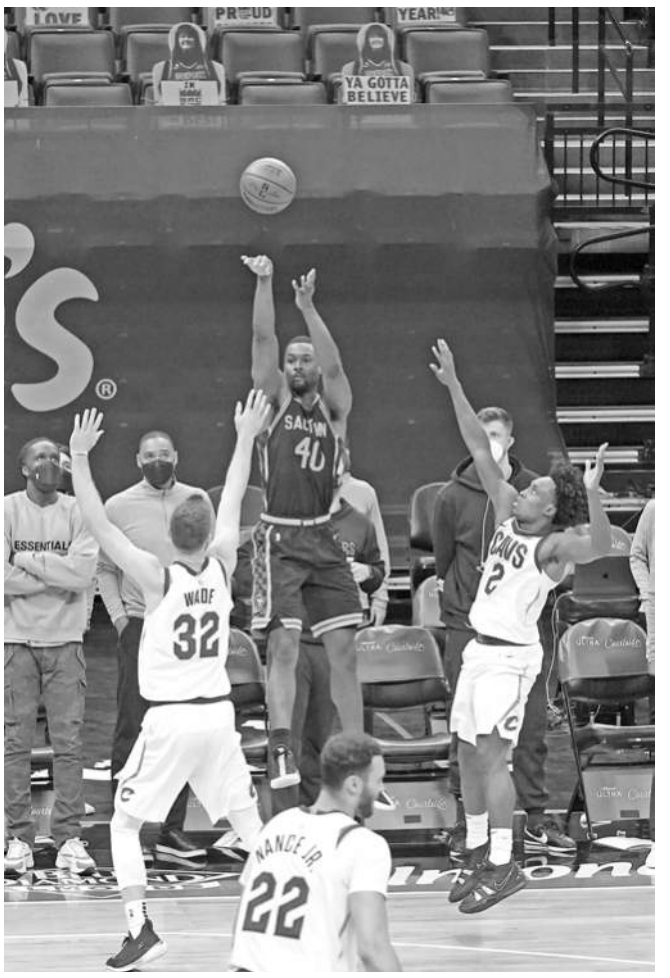
In New Orleans, Zion Williamson scored 38 points, including 10 during New Orleans' 18-8 run in the final 3:42, and Nickiel Alexander-Walker added 20 to lift the Pelicans over shorthanded Dallas.

Williamson, who had 39 points in a close loss to Denver on Friday night, recorded his 23rd consecutive game of at least 20 points.

The Mavericks played without forward Luka Doncic, who sat out with an illness, and center Kristaps Porzingis, who was resting on the second half of back-to-back games.

Dallas led 95-94 with 3:42 left, but Williamson closed with 10 points down the stretch and Alexander-Walker added two 3-pointers.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 21 of his 30 points in the first half for the Mavericks. Jalen Brunson, starting for Doncic, added 24 points.



AP

Sacramento Kings forward Harrison Barnes (40) shoots a 3-point basket next to Cleveland Cavaliers forward Dean Wade (32) and guard Collin Sexton (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, March 27, 2021.

Wizards 106, Pistons 92

In Washington, Russell Westbrook had 19 points, 19 rebounds and 10 assists and Washington beat Detroit in All-Star guard Bradley Beal's injury-shortened outing.

Beal had 17 points in 21 minutes before the NBA scoring leader departed early in the third quarter, having started the game with a sore right foot.

Westbrook had his NBA-best 15th triple-double to help the Wizards win for the second time in 10 games since the All-Star break.

Wayne Ellington scored 15 points for Detroit.

Celtics 111, Thunder 94

In Oklahoma City, Jayson Tatum scored 20 of his 27 points in the second half and Boston rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Oklahoma City.

Jaylen Brown added 25 points to help the Celtics even their season record to close out a four-game trip.

Moses Brown scored a career-high 21 points and tied a Thunder record with 23 rebounds. Theo Maledon added 22 points for Oklahoma City.

Rockets 129, Timberwolves 107

In Minneapolis, Kevin Porter Jr. scored 25 points in his return to Houston's lineup, John Wall had 13 points and 12 assists and Rockets rebounded to beat Minnesota.

On Friday night in the series opener, Houston blew a 29-point, second-half lead and was outscored 22-0 in the final 7:31 of a 107-101 loss. The Rockets came back a night later to win for the second time in four games after a 20-game losing streak.

Kelly Olynyk added 16 points in his first game for Houston after coming over from Miami in the trade for Victor Oladipo. Sterling Brown also had 16 points.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 27 points and 15 rebounds for Minnesota.

Spurs 120, Bulls 104

In San Antonio, Jakob Poeltl scored 20 points, DeMar DeRozan had 17 and San Antonio spoiled Nikola Vucevic's Chicago debut.

Vucevic had 21 points, nine rebounds and four assists in his Chicago debut. The Bulls acquired the All-Star center Thursday in a trade with Orlando. Zach Lavine added 18 points for Chicago, which lost its third straight.

Source: LaMarcus Aldridge to sign with Brooklyn Nets

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nets aren't finished bringing big names to Brooklyn.

LaMarcus Aldridge is next after deciding Saturday to sign with the Nets for the remainder of the season, a person with knowledge of the details said.

After reaching a buyout agreement with the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday, the veteran forward quickly became a coveted free agent for contending teams.

He picked the Nets, the person told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the signing wasn't official.

ESPN first reported Aldridge's intentions.

Aldridge joins a Nets team that has current All-Stars Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving, and added a former one earlier this month when it signed Blake Griffin.

Aldridge averaged 19.5 points and 8.0 rebounds in 5 1/2 seasons for the Spurs, before they removed the 35-year-old from the rotation earlier this month while searching for a potential trade. None materialized before the deadline Thursday, so the Spurs bought out Aldridge's contract.

An All-Star in three of his seasons in San Antonio, Aldridge fills one of the few holes for the potent Nets. He can play power forward or center, giving Brooklyn a reliable post-up presence to play with its collection of outside threats.

Center Andre Drummond, waived by Cleveland, remains another top choice for teams seeking help from the buyout market.

Aldridge was also an All-Star four times in Portland before joining the Spurs.

Gordon, McGee eager to lead Nuggets toward deep playoff run

DENVER (AP)—Among the topics JaVale McGee considers himself well-versed: Netflix shows, cryptocurrency, investments and technology as it relates to the new iPhone.

"I'm really versed in the world of a lot of things," he said.

Go ahead and add winning NBA rings to that list, too. The 7-footer has been a part of three championship teams over the past four seasons.

McGee believes his newest Denver Nuggets castmates have that possible championship makeup, especially with the additions of athletic forward Aaron Gordon and himself at the trade deadline.

"This team has all the pieces," McGee said Saturday as he prepares for his second stint with the Nuggets after being acquired from the Cleveland Cavaliers. "A lot of things have to go right, but I feel like we have all the pieces for it to go right."

First order of business—meshing.

Time is of the essence, too, for McGee and Gordon to get on the same page with All-Star center and MVP candidate Nikola Jokic, along with point guard Jamal Murray. It will have to be an adjust-on-the-fly deal since practices are scarce in this condensed season. The Nuggets (27-18) are currently fifth in the Western Conference standings.

"I don't think it's going to take me long to get up to speed," said Gordon, who was acquired along with Gary Clark from Orlando for guard Gary Harris, rookie R.J. Hampton and a future first-round pick.

Ditto for McGee.

"It's not really that complicated," said McGee, who was brought in from Cleveland for center Isaiah Hartenstein and two second-round picks. "For me, it's easy to mesh with anybody."

The Nuggets went to the Western Conference finals last season before losing to LeBron James and the eventual champion Los Angeles Lakers, which also included McGee. Before that, McGee was part of two Golden State teams that won behind Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant & Co.

"I'm just trying to make sure that I bring that championship pedigree," McGee, 33, said. "Just every day, make sure I'm doing the right things, just setting the example."

This is a team that marches to the rhythm of Jokic, the big man who's having the finest statistical season of his career in averaging nearly a triple double (27.2 points, 11.1 rebounds and 8.6 assists). The Nuggets didn't want to squander this sort of season in what appears to be a wide-open West.

"At the moment he's the best player in the world. And he's a guy that should continue to raise all of our bars," said Tim Connelly, the Nuggets president of basketball operations. "We're doing right by him because he's certainly doing right by the organization with his play.

"There are a lot of teams that have the ability to go win it all and I'd like to think we're one of them."

Before making moves that might disrupt team chemistry, Connelly consults not only with coach Michael Malone but Murray and Jokic. Connelly values their input.

"It's saved me several times from making mistakes," Connelly said. "It's important that they have ownership over that locker room."

Gordon brings another layer of athleticism to the roster, along with an ability to cover the best wing players in the game. It's a role he relishes — and one of many he will be asked to fill by the Nuggets.

"We all have a mutual understanding — just to be an athletic slasher, runner, cutter, facilitator, spot-up shooter and tenacious defender," Gordon said.

As for blending in with Jokic, that's easy for Gordon: Simply break toward the rim and the Nuggets big man will find him.

"I'm just here to make his job easy," the 25-year-old Gordon said. "His passing ability is incredible. I think my passing ability is slept on."

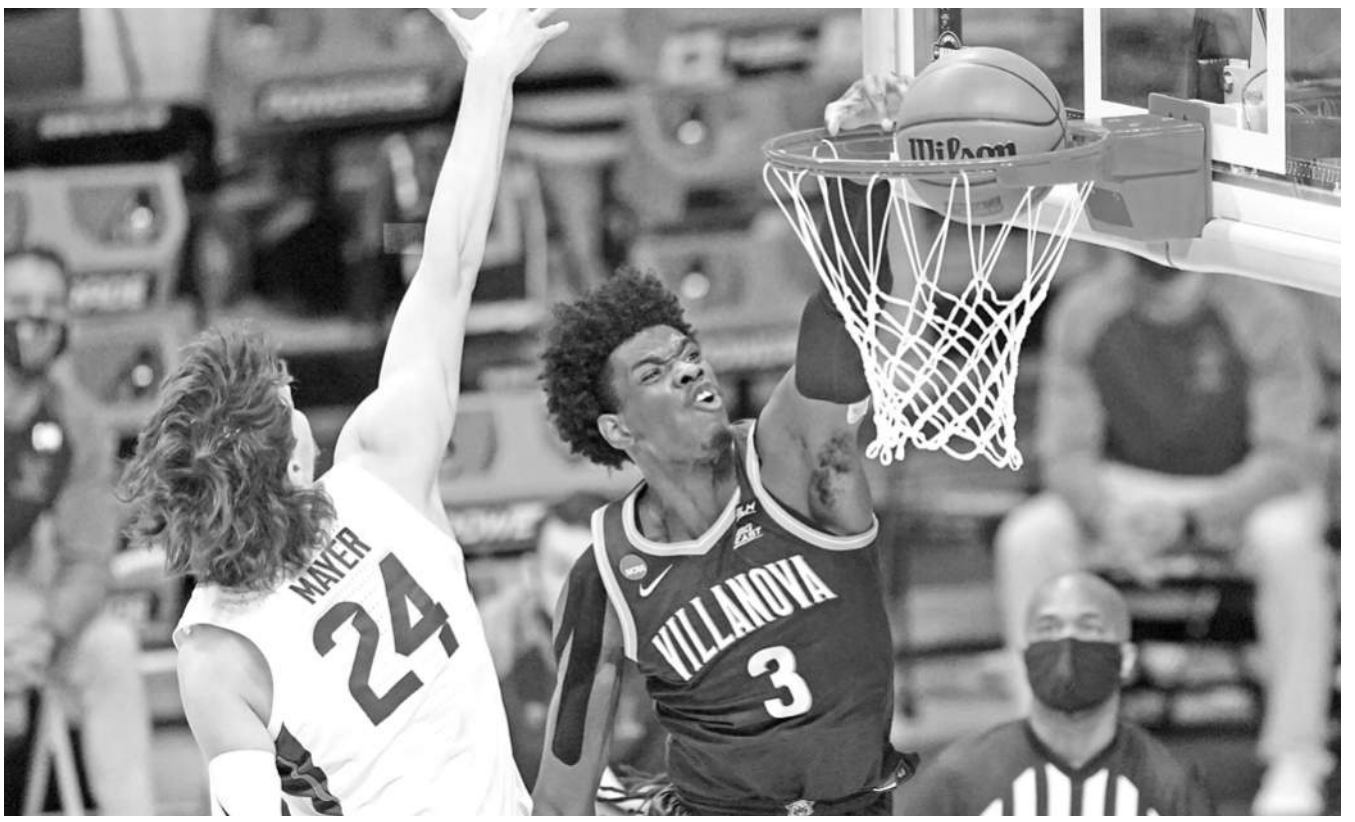
This is definitely a different sort of team than when McGee was around the first time. He spent parts of four seasons in the Mile High City before being dealt to Philadelphia in February 2015.

The perceptions of Denver have certainly changed over the past six years.

"I feel like now, on the scouting report it says, 'You better play hard or this team is going to destroy you,'" McGee said. "I feel like we got even better with the addition of me and Aaron, of being a team that people look on the calendar and they know this isn't going to be an easy game.

"I'm really excited of the things to come."

Baylor grinds to Elite 8 in 62-51 win ova 'Nova



AP
Villanova forward Brandon Slater (3) dunks on Baylor guard Matthew Mayer (24) in the second half of a Sweet 16 game in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament at Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Saturday, March 27, 2021.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— That ice that seemed to be forming across the 3-point arc was hardly enough to throw Baylor off course.

Some rugged defense and a newly discovered love for points in the paint helped the top-seeded Bears find the formula for a 62-51 victory over Villanova on Saturday and a trip to the Elite Eight.

Adam Flagler was the surprise leading scorer, with 16 points, and Baylor (25-2), which came in as the nation's leading 3-point shooting team at 41.5%, won despite making only 3 of 19 against Villanova's ever-shifting 2-3, man-to-man combo on D.

Baylor, which started the season 18-0 and won its first-ever Big 12 regular-season title, is one win from the Final Four for the first time since 2012. The Bears will play Arkansas in the South regional final on Monday.

Davion Mitchell, a 46% shooter from 3 this season, went 0 for 3 from long range on a 14-point day. The team's other two high-powered guards didn't fare better. Jared Butler scored nine points on 1-for-9 shooting from 3, and MaCio Teague had five points without a 3.

"When we are 2 for 12 at half, we figured we've got to get inside," coach Scott Drew said of the team's 3-point shooting. "We got good looks but not great looks. The guards did a great job of not settling and probing more."

Because of that, Baylor shot 53% in the second half, even though it made only one 3.

"Coach said we're not going to win if we keep shooting the off-dribble 3," Mitchell said. "He told us to trust the defense and get in the paint."

The game changed midway through the second half when Baylor took Drew's words to heart and started pounding inside. The Bears took a six-point lead with a 14-2 run during which not a single point came from outside the arc. Baylor outscored 'Nova 40-32 in the paint for the game.

Defense picked up, too.

Constantly harassing Villanova shooters who'd carved out space in the first half, Baylor held Villanova to 37.5% shooting in the second and 0 for 9 from 3. Baylor had four of its five blocked shots after halftime. During one stretch in the decisive run, Baylor forced five straight turnovers on 'Nova possessions. The Wildcats finished with 16 turnovers, almost double their nation-best season average (8.8).

Coach Jay Wright's team scored 10 points over the final 11 minutes.

"We were good enough to beat them but they just played better down the stretch," Wright said. "I think their defense got into us and wore us down and it made the difference in the game."

The Wildcats got 16 points from Jermaine Samuels, but only three from Caleb Daniels on 1-for-11 shooting.

Villanova (18-7) came in without injured point guard Collin Gillespie and with a middling defense at best, but looked to be turning things around over the first weekend of the tournament. There were mini-victories in this one, too, in part because Wright's deft mix of defenses kept Baylor off the mark. This marked only the second time this season anyone has held that high-powered offense under 65 points.

Shooting struggles aside, 2021 still has the makings of being Baylor's year, and any residue from the pandemic-related breaks that halted the Bears' momentum after a perfect start appear to have faded.

"You've got to take advantage of every opportunity, and obviously we have an opportunity to go to the final Four," Drew said. "Hopefully, we'll put our best foot forward."

Arkansas 72, Oral Roberts 70

Davonte Davis hit a short jumper with 2.9 seconds left, and Arkansas beat Oral Roberts to advance to the Elite Eight for the first time in 26 years.

The Muss Buss grinded its gears through the first half into the second, bad shots and even worse defense putting third-seeded Arkansas in a 12-point hole against the 15th-seeded Golden Eagles.

Eric Musselman's Razorbacks (25-6) got their swagger back, turning defensive stops into early offense opportunities and offensive rebounds into points.

It came down to one final shot and Davis made it, sending Arkansas to the Elite Eight for the first time since the Nolan Richardson "40 Minutes of Hell" days.

The let-it-fly Golden Eagles (18-11) let history slip through their grasp. Max Abmas did his best, scoring 25 points. His 3-point attempt at the buzzer bounced off the front of the rim.

MIDWEST
Oregon State 65, Loyola Chicago 58

Ethan Thompson scored 20 points, including a pair of clinching foul shots with 35 seconds left, and No. 12 seed Oregon State kept its dream March going, beating eighth-seeded Loyola Chicago.

Warith Alatishe added 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Beavers (20-12), who were picked to finish last in the Pac-12 but ran roughshod through the conference tournament and have kept on winning on college basketball's biggest stage.

They're headed for their first Elite Eight since 1982 — one that was later vacated by the NCAA — and will play second-seeded Houston on Monday night for a spot in the Beavers' first Final Four since 1963.

Not even the fervent prayers of Sister Jean could help Loyola (26-4) deal with the constantly changing defenses that Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle rolled out. The Ramblers wound up shooting 33% from the field and 5 of 23 from beyond the arc.

All-America forward Cameron Krutwig led Loyola with 14 points.

Houston 62, Syracuse 46

Quentin Grimes scored 14 points while Houston's defense locked down on surging Buddy Boeheim, helping the Cougars beat Syracuse.

Justin Gorham had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the second-seeded Cougars, who pushed through to their first trip to a regional final in 37 years.

The Cougars also got a strong all-around effort from DeJon Jarreau, who finished with nine points, eight rebounds and eight assists while leading the defensive effort that kept Boeheim in check.

Houston (27-3) came in holding opponents to a national-low 37.3% shooting, and then harassed No. 11 seed Syracuse (18-10) into just 28% (14 for 50).

Buddy Boeheim managed just one first-half basket and finished with 12 points on 3-for-13 shooting, including 1 for 9 from 3-point range.

MLB BRIEFS

Brewers re-sign Jordan Zimmermann to minor league deal

PHOENIX (AP)—The Milwaukee Brewers re-signed pitcher Jordan Zimmermann to a minor league contract one day after releasing him.

This move enables the Brewers to send the 34-year-old right-hander to their alternate site in Appleton, Wisconsin. "I think Jordan is going to help us at some point in the season," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "I think he's a great presence in the clubhouse and I'm happy we were able to work something out for him to be able to stay with us. We're going to need depth." Under baseball's labor contract, players who became free agents after the World Series and agreed to a minor league contract had to be told by Saturday that they would be added to the major league roster by opening day, given a $100,000 retention bonus or released. Cutting Zimmermann and then re-signing him got around that. Zimmermann, a Wisconsin native, said he didn't really look around to see if any other organization might make an offer after getting released. He wanted to stay with the Brewers. "I knew this is where I wanted to be," Zimmermann said Saturday. "It's a great organization. The guys in the clubhouse are great. I wasn't looking to go anywhere else. I feel like this is a good fit for me. I think I can help this team at some point during the season." Zimmermann made All-Star teams with the Washington Nationals in 2013 and 2014, but he has struggled with injuries the last two seasons. He went 0-0 with a 7.94 ERA in three appearances for Detroit last year. Although he went 1-0 with a 6.00 ERA in four relief outings this spring, Zimmermann has been a starter for all but two of his 277 major league appearances. "I think what we'll do is we'll stretch him out and then see where it takes us and see what our needs are," Counsell said. "I think keeping him healthy is important. He is capable of pitching at the start of games. He's capable of pitching bulk innings. At some point, we're going to need that."

García sent to minors by Yanks, leaving Germán to start

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The New York Yankees' starting rotation fell into place when Deivi García was optioned to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on Friday following a poor spring training. New York's decision left Domingo Germán as the fifth starter behind Gerrit Cole, Corey Kluber, Jameson Taillon and Jordan Montgomery. Germán missed last season while serving a suspension under Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy. Luis Severino is expected back in June or July following his rehabilitation from Tommy John surgery. The 21-year-old Garcia was 0-2 with a 3.86 ERA over 14 innings in five spring training outings. He allowed four runs, seven hits and two walks in three innings against Toronto on Wednesday. "Obviously we continue to be really excited about Deivi and continue to be really excited about the strides that he's continued to make in his craft," manager Aaron Boone said. "I would say from going back to last spring, to summer camp, to how he finished the year, to where he is now, he continues to develop as a pitcher." Boone said the Yankees love his confidence and how well he takes instruction, but his motion is slightly off right now. "I think the message to him that I tried to convey was stay ready," Boone said. "We're going to need you, you're going to be a big part of this, chances are. And make sure you're handling your business down there as putting yourself in line to be the guy we go to because there's probably going to be a time when in the month of April where may go to a sixth starter at some point here or there." Germán pitched nine scoreless innings over five appearances, allowing five hits, striking out 13 and walking one. He was 18-4 with a 4.03 ERA for the Yankees when MLB put him on administrative leave in September 2019 while investigating an alleged domestic violence incident involving his girlfriend, with whom he has at least one child. Germán missed the final nine games of the regular season and all nine of New York's playoff games. On Jan. 2, 2020, he was suspended for 63 games — he was out for the entire pandemic-shortened 2020 season and playoffs.

Middle school volleyball given the all clear

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has given an all clear to resume the 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League that was postponed for over a week due to the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in the community.

According to Nick Gross, PSS athletic director, as predicted, the tournament was given the green light to resume on March 27.

"We've been cleared to resume our middle school grass volleyball season. Unfortunately, due to the pause in play we are behind schedule," he said.

However, as a result of the postponement, the athletic program has elected to omit the final two days of round-robin play that was scheduled for March 15 and March 22.

Gross said the program will instead move forward with the double-elimination tournament on Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10.

Initially, the league was set to enter its double-elimination tournament on March 26 to 27.

"Since we were unable to play our round-robin season for seeding purposes, we will be conducting a blind draw for seeding," he said.

On Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10. All teams will need to be at the CPA Airport field no later than 2:45pm and games will begin at 3pm.

Matches will carry on to Saturday for all remaining teams starting at 8am. Currently, the semifinal and championship games will be a best-of-3 format with the championship game scheduled to begin at 11:30am.

Gross said the tournament will have four courts dedicated to both the boys and girls matches for a total of eight courts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Public School System gives the green light to resume the 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League that was postponed for over a week due to the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in the community.

Teams will play a single set format to 21, with a cap at 25 and both teams are only allowed one timeout per set.

In the best-of-3 matches, the tournament will use a 21, 21, 15 format. The cap will remain at 25 in the first two sets, and should the third set be warranted, there will be no cap and teams must win by 2 points.

Rota and Tinian teams are encouraged to begin processing their commutes as soon as possible to if they still wish to participate in the tournament.

The 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

LEE

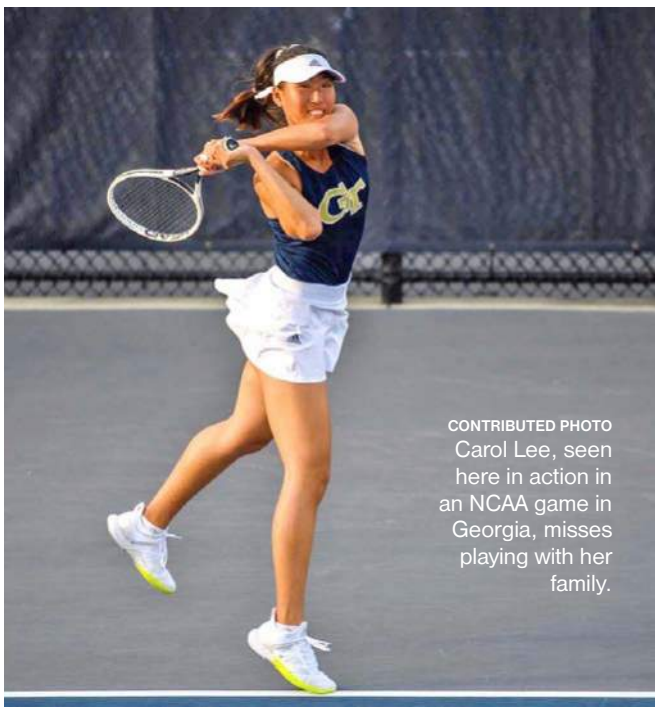
From Page 20

were on the courts beside me. My eyes were becoming like a chameleon, as I was looking side to side. I felt sorry for my partner, Hoo, but we were still able to win our own match," Dong Min said.

While their dad lost focus on his game, the Lee siblings were really into their respective match.

"It's cool to have three family members playing at the same time, but still I had to focus on my own game," said Sean, who also competed in the men's singles division.

Anne, on the other hand, said she didn't know that his dad was on the other court, as she was too concentrated on her game.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here in action in an NCAA game in Georgia, misses playing with her family.

Seeing Sean and Anne playing while he was also competing reminds Dong Min of his experience with her eldest child, Carol Lee, who is now playing for Georgia Tech in Division I of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

"When Carol and I played at the same time, I always thought I could focus on my own game. But I can't. I always think about her playing on the other court, reacting to her shots. It happened again with Sean and Ann. I could never stop thinking about the games of my children," Dong Min said.

Meanwhile, Carol was able to watch the video footage of her family's games in last month's White Coconut Classic and admitted missing times like this.

"When I watched a short video of my dad, my sister, and my brother competing next to each other, I felt as if I was missing out and I wished I was there with them, competing next to them and supporting them. I definitely miss training and playing with my family. I'm glad to see them still practicing and competing hard while enjoying themselves on the court even though we are still in the pandemic," the Yellow Jackets rookie said.

Carol still remembers when she and her brother played at the same time and their dad was having a hard time watching the two matches.

"He looked confused and it was just very funny. I also recall when my dad was playing doubles while I was playing doubles, too and we were next to each other. I could see my dad looking at me during the points. He was more into watching my doubles than him playing his match. And when I win a point, he would complement me on my shots," Carol said.

Dong Min is proud to see Carol move up in the collegiate ranks and vows to continue guiding his two other children, as he hopes Sean and Anne will also have the opportunity to play in high-level competitions in the future.

MULDOON

From Page 20

cheer for each other, and give each other high fives and it felt awesome. This event was great. I love running with women, women are so supportive, and it was a great atmosphere out there and it felt really good," Muldoon said.

Muldoon said the race made her extremely proud of all the women who came out to support because of their great sportsmanship, as well as witnessing women of all walks of life come together in celebration of Women's month.

"This event really makes me really proud of women. I felt like there were women of all shapes, sizes, and ages out there who were just trying to do their best and it felt good to have camaraderie with everyone together. Everyone should come out next year, it doesn't matter how fast you run, there are people out there walking and still having a great time," she said.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
The first NMI 10K Women's Run gained 102 registered participants last Saturday at the American Memorial Park beside the Hyatt Regency Saipan side.

Muldoon is no novice in running marathons, back in March 2019, Muldoon ran and prevailed in the annual Tagaman Triathlon. In the women's division, Muldoon reached the finish line first and timed in at 1:51:06 to prevail against four other participants in her field.

Tailing Muldoon last Saturday was veteran runner and CNMI 10K record-holder Noriko Jim, submitting a time of 44:27. Jim marked a new CNMI record in 10K after submitting 43:50 back in 2020 during the Saipan Marathon.

At third place was multiple marathon champ Akiko Miller who finished just three minutes behind Muldoon at 46:49.

Female student athlete of the month of February Kaitlyn Chavez finished inside the Top 5 after completing the 10K course at 47:57 followed by Jenny Chhea who rounded out the Top 5 with a time of 49:18.

According to Oceania Athletics Association president Robin Sapong, for the first event of its kind, the NMI 10K Women's Run was a huge success and garnered so much support with the event's kickoff seeing 102 registered participants.

Sapong said the event will become an annual one in celebration of Women's Month and also to raise proceeds for selected charities that will be selected by the race's winning team.

Barnes beats buzzer with 3, Kings stun Cavaliers

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Baylor grinds to Elite 8 in 62-51 win ova 'Nova

PAGE 18

Ben Babauta is Mini Games organizing committee CEO

The organizing committee for the Pacific Mini Games 2022 has appointed Vicente "Ben" Babauta Jr. as chief executive officer to oversee the management of the Games, scheduled for June 2022 in the Northern Marianas.

Babauta formerly served as assistant general manager of Operations for DFS Saipan and brings 33 years of experience in business operations to the CEO position.

"With Ben Babauta's past and present involvement in local communities, on top of his experience with business fundraiser activities, the Games' Oversight Committee is confident that selecting Mr. Babauta as the new CEO for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games is the right choice," said Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter. "This will be the first-ever hosting of the Pacific Mini Games in the Northern Marianas, so we believe that his leadership, with the support of the Games Organizing Committee, is the best fit for the position."

Beginning April 1, 2021, Babauta will work with the chairman, Northern Marianas Sports Association, sub-committee chairpersons, and other stakeholders and lead decision making toward the preparation and completion of the Games.

"I am humbled and excited for this opportunity to lead the 2022 NMI Pacific Mini Games," said Babauta Yes, there's a lot of work ahead as we prepare to set the stage for the athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators in the Northern Marianas for an exciting competition each game and an unforgettable

Babauta

experience on our islands. I would like to thank the Games Oversight Committee for their confidence and support as CEO. I would also like to thank Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration for their commitment and support for the event."

Twenty-four countries and territories throughout the Pacific have been invited to participate in the Pacific Mini Games, a multi-sport event governed by the Pacific Games Council as a scaled-down version of the Pacific Games, held every alternating four years.

At this time, an estimated 400-600 athletes are anticipated to participate in the following events: athletics, badminton, baseball, golf, beach volleyball, and triathlon, with tennis, weightlifting, and va'a also proposed.

In a letter to the Pacific Games Council, Torres has committed $44 million to the Games. The Pacific Games Council has also provided an initial $20,000 in seed money. Fundraising for cash and in-kind support will also be conducted. Additional events may be added to the Games by the Pacific Games Council.

For more information, contact the 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee at marianassports@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Muldoon is 1st Women's Run champ

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Lily Muldoon crosses the finish line of the first-ever NMI 10K Women's Run last Saturday at the American Memorial Park beside the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lily Bloom Muldoon breezed past over 100 others to bag the inaugural NMI 10K Women's Run title that started last Saturday at the American Memorial Park, Hyatt Regency Saipan side.

Muldoon, a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. ER doctor, was the first to the finish line in the first-ever Women's Run in the CNMI with a time of 43:42 last Saturday and her motivation for making quick work of the course: To make it in time for her early morning shift.

"Yesterday, my friends convinced me to run because I have a shift that starts at 8am and they said if I run fast enough, I will be able to get to my shift on time," she said.

All jokes aside, Muldoon said the best part of the race was not the honor of taking the first Women's Run title of its kind in the CNMI, but rather the camaraderie she had with all the women who came out to participate.

"I think it was great because of this out-and-back course. When I was running back, I could past every single runner and we got to

See MULDOON on Page 19

Lee family relishes memories on tennis courts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last month's White Coconut Classic was a tournament to remember for the Lee family.

"It was the first time that I, my son Sean, and my youngest daughter Anne, played at the same time in different courts at the American Memorial Park," said Dong Min Lee.

Dong Min partnered with junior player Hoo Wang and they defeated Nason Wessel and Ami Tsukagoshi in the mixed-up doubles third round during the Feb. 14 play date on Court 2. On Court 1, Sean teamed up with Min Seoung Kim in beating Quintin Ramsey and Ji Jun Park, while Anne was with Tomas Abel on Court 3 when they lost to Si Woon Lee and Andy Kim.

Dong Min and Wang won in straight sets despite the former's attention divided between his game and the matches of his son and daughter.

"I couldn't focus on my own match because I was worried about their scores and also very happy that they

See LEE on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Dong Min, Anne, and Sean Lee pose for a photo after their game in last month's White Coconut Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.